

500 dead as boat sinks in Lake Victoria

DAR ES SALAAM (AP) — A ferry struck a rock and sank in Lake Victoria on Tuesday, and 500 people drowned, state radio and journalists said. Passing ships pulled 40 survivors from the water 48 kilometres northwest of the port of Mwanza and recovered 21 bodies, state-run Radio Tanzania said. No more survivors among the 600 people aboard the MV Bukoba were expected to be found, the station said. The ship was travelling southeast from Bukoba to Mwanza, 180 kilometres away. Mwanza is Tanzania's most important port on the shore of Lake Victoria, handling the cotton, tea and coffee grown in the fertile western part of the country. The MV Bukoba is owned and operated by the state Tanzania Railways Corporation, which sent the MV Victoria, the largest steamer on the huge lake, and other vessels to the scene, Radio Tanzania said. Since the collapse in 1977 of the East African community and the disintegration of the East African Railways and Harbours Corporation, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania have operated separate ferry services in Lake Victoria.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

Muasher denies London meeting report

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Marwan Muasher said in a statement to the press after a Cabinet session on Tuesday that there was no plan to hold a meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah in London. Dr. Muasher said Jordan's relations with Gulf states were improving and that the Kingdom sent 600 Jordanians to work in the United Arab Emirates and another 500 would head there soon. "Our relations with Kuwait are returning to normal," he said, that the two countries had agreed on resuming direct transport between them. Dr. Muasher said a phone call between Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia focused on bilateral ties and arrangements to hold a Jordanian-Saudi economic committee meeting next month. Dr. Muasher said Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Israeli elections was neutral. "We do not support any party. We signed a peace agreement with the Israeli state not any political party," he said.

Volume 21 Number 6227

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1996, MUHARRAM 5, 1417

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Holiday declared

AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries, government departments and public institutions will be closed on Saturday May 25 in observance of Independence Day, according to a communique issued by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti on Tuesday.

Ex-consul enters not-guilty plea

AMMAN (AFP) — Sri Lanka's former consul Tawfik Abu Khajil at the centre of a "baby for sale" scandal pleaded not guilty in court on Tuesday. Judicial sources said a Sri Lankan co-defendant, who stands accused of selling her baby, also denied the charges. A third defendant, the consul's Lebanese secretary, Andrea Alfred Bustani, is being tried in absentia, accused of helping him sell the illegitimate babies of Sri Lankan housemaids to European couples. Mr. Abu Khajil is accused of "trafficking in babies, faking official documents and illegal possession of firearms." The trial is being held under 1929 anti-slavery legislation which carries a penalty of three years in jail. After the pleas, the trial was adjourned until Sunday to hear witnesses.

Israeli parties call off mass rallies

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's two main political parties today called off mass rallies set for May 29 agreed Tuesday to cancel their traditional mass rallies at the end of the campaign for fear of possible militant attacks. Both the ruling Labour Party and its right-wing opposition rival Likud bowed to a police demand to call off their rallies planned for Monday in order not to attract large crowds. Hundreds of thousands had been expected to turn out in a show of support either in Jerusalem for Likud, or in Yitzhak Rabin Square in Tel Aviv for Labour, on the spot where the former premier was gunned down in November. The cost of each rally had been put at \$1 million. Instead the climax of the campaign will be on Sunday when Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who is leader of the Labour Party, will face Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu in a televised head-to-head debate.

China may conduct N-tests soon — U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. under Secretary of Defense Walter Slocombe said Tuesday he expects China would stage nuclear tests within the next few weeks. Asked by reporters if a Chinese nuclear test was possible in the coming weeks, Mr. Slocombe responded: "Yes." The Chinese have made clear that they have a programme of (nuclear) tests to finish and they intend to finish them," Mr. Slocombe said. "How many they will do is uncertain," he added.

Arafat ends visit to Greece

ATHENS (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat met former Greek Premier Andreas Papandreu and Greek ministers Tuesday at the end of a two-day visit centred on the development of the Palestinian territory. Mr. Papandreu is still head of Greece's ruling Pasok socialist party, but was replaced in January as prime minister after battling for his life against illness. Mr. Arafat also met Greek Parliament Speaker Apostolos Kaklamanis, who offered technical aid to help set up the Palestinian National Authority's new parliament. He had talks with Greek Development Minister Vasso Papandreu and about 90 business leaders on development of the territory, urging them to invest in infrastructure projects. He left Greece after receiving an honorary degree from Patras University.

Baghdad sees oil deal as sign of end to sanctions; U.S. disagrees

Oil-for-food accord is widely welcomed, but initial euphoria is over among Iraqis

Combined agency despatches
IRAQ ON Tuesday hailed the U.N. oil-for-food deal as a "big step" towards ending six years of economic sanctions but said it falls short of relieving people's suffering. Iraqis danced in the streets and fired shots into the air after state television and radio announced late Monday that President Saddam Hussein's government had accepted the agreement.

The 51-paragraph memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in New York on Monday by chief U.N. negotiator Hans Corell and his Iraqi counterpart Abdul Amir Al Anbari ended three-and-a-half months of arduous negotiations. It provides for Iraq to export \$2 billion of oil — around 700,000 barrels per day — over six months and is renewable if U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali confirms that strict implementation is taking place.

Washington described the deal as a humanitarian exemption to the sanctions which it vowed would stay until Baghdad complied with U.N. disarmament and other resolutions ending the 1991

Gulf war to free Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

But Iraqi official newspaper Al Jumhuriyah said: "What was achieved yesterday is positive because it allowed us to recover some of our rights and take one big step toward lifting the embargo."

"Today is a day of work and not only of joy. Our joy today is mitigated. Real joy will come only when the embargo is lifted," Al Jumhuriyah said. The Iraqi dinar, which has nosedived since sanctions were imposed after the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, strengthened from around 800 to the dollar two days ago to 600 to the dollar on Tuesday, dealers said.

However, it dipped as low as 400 to the dollar in the euphoria following the deal.

An Iraqi economist said the agreement "only meets a tiny part" of Iraq's needs.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in October estimated Iraq's immediate needs at \$2.7 billion.

U.N. sources said Iraqis would receive the equivalent of 32 cents per person per day

for food, medicine and other basic products if they live in areas under government control and 50 cents if they live in the Kurdish-held north.

A total of \$300 million from the proceeds must go every three months to the fund to compensate victims of the invasion of Kuwait and another portion used to cover U.N. operations.

Oil analysts and U.N. officials said it would take between two months and four months before Iraq could begin exporting oil and start receiving food and medicine as careful monitoring procedures had to be put in place.

"Without the procedures, nothing can happen," Mr. Corell said.

Mr. Corell said Baghdad now had to submit a detailed distribution plan in line with the MoU.

The MoU also says Dr. Ghali to select a "major international bank" to hold an escrow account which would control the revenues from the oil sales.

International monitors would be delayed at entry points and warehouses in Iraq to ensure the "equitable distribution" of the food and

medicine. U.N. officials say that some 100-200 people would be required to monitor the process.

The United Nations announced that Yasushi Akashi, the former U.N. representative in the former Yugoslavia, would be in charge of the humanitarian effort. Washington had criticised him for his role in the Balkans crisis.

The U.N. Sanctions Committee must meanwhile approve each oil sale and the supplies intended for importation.

The arrangement calls for the bulk of the Iraqi oil to be exported via a twin Turkish pipeline, while the rest may pass through Iraq's Gulf terminal, also under U.N. supervision.

Iraq said Monday that a third route via Syria could be used.

The United Nations said the United States would act to stop Iraq from diverting the U.N.-approved oil sales earnings for "illegitimate" ends. "We will prevent Saddam

(Continued on page 7)

Arafat adviser quits Israeli election; Peres praises move

TEL AVIV (AP) — A small Arab party headed by an adviser to Yasser Arafat on Tuesday quit the race for Israel's parliament after polls suggested it would fail to win a seat.

Party leader Ahmad Tibi said he did not want to be responsible for thousands of Arab votes being wasted in the May 29 elections that will decide on the fate of Mideast peacekeeping.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres, the architect of Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accords, is running a tight race against opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu, who has said he would grant the Palestinians limited autonomy, but never statehood.

Israel Radio said Dr. Tibi withdrew under pressure from Mr. Arafat. Dr. Tibi on Tuesday called on his supporters to vote for Mr. Peres in the race for prime minister, the second

endorsement for Mr. Peres from an Arab faction on Tuesday.

Mr. Peres said Tuesday he believed Dr. Tibi had made right decision in quitting. "I think he did a wise thing... in order not to divide the vote," Mr. Peres said.

This year, Israelis for the first time elect their prime minister directly and with a second vote choose a party.

However, the distribution of seats in parliament remains crucial because the winner in the prime minister's race needs parliamentary approval for his coalition government.

An estimated 45,000 votes are needed for one of the 120 seats in parliament. Ballots for parties that do not meet the threshold are lost.

"In spite of massive backing in several areas, there is a risk that the number of votes will be below the threshold," said Dr. Tibi, a physician and

long-time adviser to Mr. Arafat.

"This would mean we are losing tens of thousands of votes and this would practically affect the peace camp."

The outgoing government rested on the support of five legislators from Arab parties who provided Mr. Peres' Labour Party and its allies with the necessary 61-seat majority.

Before Dr. Tibi's Arab Movement for Change quit the race Tuesday, 21 parties were competing in the elections. Less than half were expected to win a seat in parliament.

Attempts to field a single Israeli Arab party have always failed, due to ideological splits or personal rivalries. About 450,000 Israeli Arabs are eligible to vote, making up 12 per cent of the electorate.

Dr. Tibi's departure leaves three Arab parties in the race.

Israel arrests 32 in W. Bank

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli army said on Tuesday that it had arrested 32 suspected Palestinian militants in the West Bank in two days of raids.

It said 13 Palestinians were arrested on Sunday night and 19 on Monday night.

Israel's Haaretz daily newspaper said the arrests in areas throughout the West Bank were the result of information gained during the interrogation of top Hamas man Hassan Salameh who was captured in Hebron on Friday.

Israel says Mr. Salameh masterminded three of four suicide bombings this year that killed scores of people. Mr. Salameh's capture came as a boon to Prime Minister Shimon Peres in a close race ahead of May 29 Israeli elections in which security is key.

Mr. Peres's double-digit opinion poll lead over his rival Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu was wiped out by the wave of suicide bombings in February and March that killed 59 people in Israel. His lead now hovers around five percentage points.

Soldiers shot and wounded Mr. Salameh at a roadblock. He fled but was tracked to a Hebron hospital, arrested and moved to an Israeli hospital in Jerusalem.

The Jewish state has been on heightened security alert for fear of fresh attacks ahead of the elections.

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas has spearheaded opposition to the 1993 Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel interim peace deal that gave Palestinians self-rule in parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a leaflet issued on Friday, Hamas vowed to avenge Mr. Salameh's arrest by carrying out more attacks against Israel.

In a related development Tuesday, Turkish officials said Tuesday that, acting on a tip by Israel's El Al Airlines, they took four Palestinians off a Turkish Air flight that

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein on Monday receives the Sir Winston Churchill Award from Lady Soames at a ceremony held at London's Guildhall (Reuters photo)

King Hussein is awarded Winston Churchill Award

In acceptance speech, King says peace is demanded by all despite differing politics

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein was honoured in London on Monday for his outstanding contribution towards securing peace in the Middle East, despite repeated threats to his life.

The King was presented with the Winston Churchill Award in the historic Guildhall in the city for his services to peace in the Middle East by his "tenacity and personal courage."

Sir Winston's grandson, Tory Member of Parliament Winston Churchill, told the audience: "The path to peace has not been an easy one. Indeed, it is probably true to say that it takes more courage to bury old enmities than it does to declare war."

"By the tenacity and personal courage that you have

demonstrated in the face of repeated threats to your life, you have been instrumental in transforming relations between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian peoples."

"With the achievement of peace across the River Jordan, the possibilities for prosperity and cooperation are boundless." Mr. Churchill said his hope was that Israel and Jordan might turn their backs on conflict and build a new partnership for the benefit of their peoples.

The Winston Churchill Award was instituted in 1987.

In an acceptance speech, King Hussein said mutual respect was the basis for peace, which should also reflect the common desire of the various parties in the region to work

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'King to meet Barak'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein was scheduled to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak in London late Monday in what Israeli reports said was an Israeli bid to end a strain in relations caused by last month's Israeli military operations in South Lebanon.

There was no immediate. (Continued on page 7)

Regent calls on scholars to help restore Arab solidarity

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday urged Arab intellectuals to help restore Arab solidarity and revive collective Arab action in the face of common challenges.

Addressing the opening session of the annual meeting of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), the Regent, said it had become necessary for the intellectuals represented in the forum to help establish at least the minimum level of coordination and cooperation among Arab countries.

"We live in a world of interlinked and complicated social, political and economic interests and it is no more possible for each country to achieve progress on its own without cooperation with others," said the Regent.

adding that "no matter how big the setbacks and frustrations, they should not discourage us from rebuilding solidarity and achieve integration among the Arab states."

"The road ahead is difficult and arduous and shrouded with anxiety and uncertainty. But this must not prevent the intellectuals from pooling their ideas and efforts to help the nation pursue the path of progress and help the Arabs live in democracy and guarantee everyone's human rights," added Prince Hassan.

"Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 brought about a real tragedy to the whole Arab Nation and joint Arab institutions, with the ATF adversely affected by their results. But the forum was

able to regain its momentum and resume its mission of handling various issues plaguing the Arab World and to act as a bridge for enhancing understanding among the Arab countries," he added.

"The ATF, which was formed in 1981, has dealt so far with a host of issues of concern to the Arab and Islamic countries like food security, education, regional cooperation, violence and politics in the Arab World and many others," he recalled.

He said that the ATF, whose members believe in Arab unity and democracy, should serve as a beacon for the Arab Nation.

After the Regent's speech, ATF Secretary General Ali Umleil reviewed the forum's activities in 1995 and outlined future programmes.

ROYAL JORDANIAN

CITY TERMINAL OPENING

Under the patronage of H.M. King Hussein and in celebration of the anniversary of the Independence of Jordan, Royal Jordanian is pleased to announce the opening of the 7th circle City Terminal a new facility to help meet customer needs and ease travel procedures, saving passengers time and effort at Queen Alia International Airport (Q.A.I.A.).

RJ Passengers heading to all RJ destinations are welcomed to conduct all check-in procedures in the City Terminal as of the opening date then proceed to Q.A.I.A. either on RJ buses leaving the City Terminal or by their own means of transportation. Passengers will be welcomed at Q.A.I.A. and lead to a special gate directly to the immigration counter. We hope that our new facilities will make traveling easier and more comfortable for our passengers.

Laws to protect the environment are paramount, legal experts say

By Samir Barhoum
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Participants in a three-day workshop on "Environmental legislation in Jordan and responsibility for pollution" have underlined the need to enact laws that would work along with the 1995 Environment Protection Law in safeguarding the ecological system.

The participants mainly criticised the 1995 law for its inability to give non-governmental environmental organisations the right to take legal action against polluters.

Jordan Environment Society (JES) President Ahmad Obeidat, addressing the opening session of the workshop Monday, said a study prepared by a specialised committee proves that local agricultural produce contains hazardous chemical materials exceeding approved international standards.

Mr. Obeidat, a former prime minister and member of the Upper House of Parliament, said the study highlights the need for enforcing strict laws to protect the environment and food supplies.

Expressing JES's frustration at not having legal ground to follow the issue, Mr. Obeidat accused the government of not taking the issue seriously and said Jordan had to face the problem sooner or later.

"There is no control in

Jordan over the abuse of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, and such materials are usually used by unskilled persons," he said, adding that blame for such malpractice usually falls on foreign labourers.

He said that the 2 1/2-year study was conducted by a specialised committee comprising specialists from the Ministry of Agriculture, the University of Jordan and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) to examine environmental pollution caused by pesticides at a request by the society.

Mr. Obeidat said that the government's inaction to the conclusions of the study proves that such issues still take political dimensions.

According to Mr. Obeidat, the 1995 environment law should be followed by other laws and legislation to protect the environment, public health and safety.

"Although Jordan did not face any environmental disasters... progress in all aspects of life has highlighted the need for advanced legislation to protect the environment, public safety and health," he said.

The use of pesticides and fertilisers in the Jordan Valley is considered one of the highest in the world, which can be taken by some as positive since it increases agricultural produce, but at the same time there are no laws or control to govern the quality of produce, Mr. Obeidat told participants in

the workshop, organised jointly by JES and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

Other laws indirectly tackle the protection of the environment, namely laws on health, agriculture, urban development, housing, water, civil defence and natural resources, but Mr. Obeidat maintains that these laws still deal with environmental issues partially and indirectly.

JES Assistant Executive Director Asem Rabab'ah said in a working paper that such laws and systems did not aim at protecting the environment when they were enacted, but rather at protecting citizens and properties. Still some of these laws called for the protection of the environment, but in an indirect manner.

These laws, Mr. Rabab'ah said, cause problems some times because of the confusion they create between the authorities or departments responsible for enforcing them. For example, water-related problems can be handled by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the Health Ministry, the Jordan Valley Authority and local municipalities.

He also said that there is a duplicity in laws in terms of penalties to be imposed on violators and the contradicting stipulations.

Lawyer Iman Mijbel presented a working paper on the 1995 environment law

and its shortcomings.

Ms. Mijbel said although the law provided for the establishment of a government institution to protect the environment, still it did not give this institution the bylaws and instructions it needs to carry out its duties properly.

JES legal committee member Riyad Al Musa dealt with Jordanian environmental strategies and called for focusing on environmental education and giving environment strategic legal power.

Jordan Bar Association President Hussein Mjalli who chaired the opening session of the workshop which aims mainly at acquainting legislators and lawyers with environmental issues, also underlined the need for spreading public awareness of ecological problems and environmental education.

Friedrich Naumann Foundation representative in Jordan Walter Rudel delivered an address in which he familiarised participants with the German and European experience in environmental fields.

He said a three-fold strategy was needed to protect the environment in any country of the world. This strategy requires the building of an informed public, a well-defined environmental policy supported by government action and environmental legislation and tools to enforce it.

Christopher: U.S. is honest broker

WASHINGTON (USIA) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher defended the United States as an honest broker in the Middle East in an interview with Middle East Broadcasting TV last week.

"I think we've been a very effective broker," the secretary said. "We've had really very good results. We've been able to assist the parties in reaching the agreement between Jordan and Israel. We've assisted the parties in carrying out the agreement between Palestine and Israel. We've been working very hard on the economic integration of the area."

"What we're really anxious to do is provide better life for the people of the region," Mr. Christopher added.

Following is a part of the official transcript of Mr. Christopher's MTV interview:

Question: You are getting yourself putting and end to the hostilities in South Lebanon. Can you tell us, what is the final result of the talks on the monitoring committee?

Answer: Let me just step back from that and say that the talks with respect to South Lebanon, they're very important to the region and to me personally. There was a great deal of killing and displacement; people are being forced out of their homes on both sides of the border.

So bringing that crisis to an end was exceedingly important. One of the things we were able to achieve in the agreement was a monitoring group which would ensure that the agreement was implemented, was carried out effectively.

We've been having meetings in Washington to try to make sure that that mechanism worked. They made good progress in the last couple of days. I just had another report on that. They are virtually concluded in their discussions which will mean that we not only have an understanding but we'll prevent the killing or shooting of civilians on both sides of the border. We'll have the end of the crisis, but we'll also have a group that will ensure or help to ensure that there's not a repetition of this kind of an event. This monitoring group can be very important to the future.

The five countries have met in a very good spirit here, because we all understand the importance of getting that monitoring group in place as soon as possible.

Q: Mr. Secretary, there has a lot of people (inaudible) that the American administration — to try to bring a ceasefire?

A: We've moved as rapidly as we thought was feasible. I was travelling in the region when President Clinton asked me to break off from the trip and not join him in Moscow but to go directly to the Middle East. I was there for a concentrated seven days, working day and night at the matter. Fortunately, with the cooperation of all the parties, we were able to work out this new understanding which, at this point, has been holding very well.

Q: There's a lot of people

in the Arab world who see the Clinton administration as being too close to the Israelis, thereby affecting their ability to be an honest broker. What do you have to say to these people?

A: I think we've been a very effective broker. We have been working on this problem all the way through the three and a half years that President Clinton has been in office and I've been in office. We've had really very good results. We've been able to assist the parties in reaching the agreement between Jordan and Israel.

We've assisted the parties in carrying out the agreement between Palestine and Israel. We've been working very hard on the economic integration of the area through the two major conferences, the last one in Amman, Jordan. So we have been very effective.

You ask why. It's essentially because we have the trust and confidence of the parties. I think we've shown over time that it will be fair. We understand both of their interests and we understand the deep interest of all of the people in the region in peace.

What we're really anxious to do is to provide a better life for the people of the region. It's a fact, I'm afraid, that the Middle East is lagging behind some of the other areas of the world in its economic development. One of the reasons is because of their recurrent wars there. People are hesitating to invest because of the recurring war.

We've been working to try to achieve a peaceful situation there. It's really quite fair for me to say that we do have a relationship with Israel. But it's also useful to say that Israel has taken risks for peace in the last three years. They've done some things that have really put themselves at risk. It has some tragedies because of what they've done because of desperate people trying to prevent the peace from going into effect.

Although we have a relationship with Israel, I think the people in the region have respected us, have trust and confidence in us. The fact that they would allow us to carry out this agreement, this new understanding between Lebanon and Israel, it's just another, the most recent, indication that they do maintain this trust and confidence.

Q: Do you think, Mr. Secretary, that peace between Syria and Israel is possible? A lot of people in the Arab world blame Israel for (inaudible) officials — can you explain — about this?

A: As I say, I would not be working as I have been. I would not have made almost 20 trips to the region if I didn't think it was possible.

Yes, I think both Israel and Syria are serious about peace. Both of them can see the benefits for their peace — for their people — of peace coming to the region. I'm not saying it will be easy. Indeed, it will be difficult because these countries have been at war for two decades — formally, at least, for two decades. There's a long history of hostility.

On the other hand, I think

the leaders of both countries have come to the recognition that their people will be better off if they're enjoying the benefits and fruits of peace. So they're starting down this road.

They will each have to put behind them fear and suspicion, and they'll each have to take risks for peace. But I believe that they're serious in those endeavours, and I wouldn't be spending as much time — President Clinton would not have directed me to spend the time — unless we were very serious about it. I must say, it will remain a high priority for me as long as I'm in this position.

Q: This actually brings about the next question is why did you (inaudible) that priority from the Clinton administration for you, personally, to bring together peace — comprehensive peace in the Middle East?

A: Of course, the Middle East has long been an important region for the United States. Since World War II, we've watched four wars come into effect there, and they do affect the vital interests of the United States because of our concern for all the countries in the region.

But it really is deeper than that, Mr. Fahmy. It is our concern for the well-being of the people. Peace would bring great benefits, great rewards. On the other hand, war creates isolation and deprivation, and it's really a hardship for the people.

You can see it just in the most recent events in Lebanon, the number of people who have been made homeless and the number of people who were killed. What we would like to see is an end to that kind of privation, an end to that kind of tragedy, and a Middle East that could be peaceful and tolerant and prosperous.

Q: Actually, again, leading into our next question, is that what is really the vision that you have for the Middle East? You know, you (inaudible) and a peace agreement has been achieved. What kind of peace are you (inaudible)?

A: First, I would foresee a future in which the countries of the region could feel secure in their neighbours or with each other. They would be neighbours working together on problems rather than countries at war and having great suspicion.

I would also see a region that is much more prosperous than the present region. I have a strong conviction that the concern about war, the concern about hostilities about breaking out, has kept that region from enjoying the benefits of peace.

Take the issue of water. The problems of water can be so much better if there were no such boundary lines, if countries could cooperate in the effective use of the water that's there.

So one issue after another would be easier to resolve in an atmosphere of peace, and much harder to resolve in an atmosphere of either tension, suspicion or war. Beyond that, I think that over time we can see the development of a tolerant, friendly society,

although you already see that happening. The Middle East has been transformed to some extent.

It's just amazing that the Israelis are talking about travelling to Jordan or travelling to some of these small countries. We've not seen that before. They're travelling to North Africa. Now that isolation is beginning to end, travel is going back and forth, and when that happens, these barriers, the old hostility begins to break down.

Q: Mr. Secretary, there are a lot of people saying water particularly will be a serious problem for the entire region, but Prime Minister Rabin (inaudible) was talking about creating a regional system in which everybody could be benefiting from. How is that (inaudible) what's the future for the Middle East without water?

A: I think it's a deprived future. It's a much less prosperous future. Water so often requires effective management. It's not a fundamental shortage, but the water is in the wrong place; the water is where people aren't and vice versa. So what needs to be achieved is a water programme region-wide that would make the water available to the people who need it and where they need it.

It's certainly been one of Prime Minister Peres' principal dreams, that they could make the most effective use of the water, and then if there's not enough water, they can begin to reach out for new means — water plants that would desalinate some of the ocean or would move water from distant places.

Q: Mr. Secretary, do you look into the new openness between the Gulf states and Israel. How do you look at this?

A: I see it evolving very rapidly. The foreign ministers of two of those countries have been in my office within the last week, talking about the normalisation of their relations with Israel, talking about the opportunities that that would bring.

This will move sequentially and carefully, but I look at the summit next year as involving all the countries of the region and more effective approach to economic issues. That would certainly include the Balkans.

Q: One more. I just want to talk about — in terms of the vision for a Middle East, how do you see your boycott evolving and the widening of normalisation of the United States (inaudible)?

A: In many respects the Arab boycott has already greatly diminished in its effectiveness. Most of the tertiary and secondary boycotts are no longer in effect, de facto, and I see over time that the boycott — just being eclipsed by the trading patterns that have taken them over. It may stay in effect in what lawyers call de jure — that is, it's still on the books but not enforced. That's certainly true as far as secondary and tertiary boycott. I think it's on its way out and it's overdue.

France blocks Aoun from attending Euoparliament.

CRECY-LA-CHAPELLE, France (R) — French police on Tuesday stopped exiled former Lebanese Prime Minister Michel Aoun from travelling to Strasbourg to address the European Parliament.

Mr. Aoun, an anti-Syrian Christian hardliner, told France-Info radio he woke up to find police had taken over the grounds of his home, La Haute Maison, 50 kilometres east of Paris.

"The regional security chief requested to meet me and told me that I may not leave the house and I would be stopped by force if I did," he said.

A Reuters television reporter said 20 parliamentary gendarmes blocked the road out of the mansion, keeping reporters at bay. Mr. Aoun's private dentist, Nabil Nicolas, said gendarmes prevented him from entering the house to treat Mr. Aoun who was suffering toothache.

Sources close to Mr. Aoun said he had been notified on Sunday that he was not authorised to travel to Strasbourg to give a lecture on Lebanon at the European Parliament's "Mediterranean Intergroup" and a subsequent news conference.

His lawyer, Henri Juramy, was also stopped from entering the house. He said he was driving to court in the nearby town of Meaux to start legal action against authorities for

impeding Mr. Aoun's freedom of movement and to accuse them of violating the European Human Rights Convention.

The French government has reminded Mr. Aoun that his terms of residence bar him from attending public events.

"General Aoun is well aware of the conditions of his stay in France and they imply that he may not participate in any public event," foreign ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt said on Monday.

Mr. Aoun had vowed to "defy the ban. I feel I am a prisoner... This is unbearable and I want this to end," he said in an interview published by the French daily newspaper Le Figaro.

Mr. Aoun was forced into exile in France in 1990 after Syria crushed his forces. He had been appointed head of a military cabinet in 1988 by then Lebanese president Amin Gemayel, who now is also in exile in France.

The Syrian-backed Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, a personal friend of French President Jacques Chirac with a home in Paris, called on Mr. Chirac on Monday to discuss the aftermath of fighting between Israel and Hizbollah guerrillas which severely set back his country's reconstruction effort from the 1975-90 civil war.

Zahar advocates halt to attacks against Israel

GAZA CITY (AP) — Leaning back in a chair, Mahmoud Zahar delivers an unusual message of peace: It is okay to halt attacks against Israel for now because there is all the time in the world to destroy the Jewish state.

Dr. Zahar, the political leader of the militant group Hamas, said it was more important to preserve Hamas' network of clinics, mosques and kindergartens than to confront Israel and the Palestinian security forces at any price.

Such pragmatism has put Dr. Zahar on a collision course with the group's more hardline leaders abroad, such as Ibrahim Ghosheh in Jordan, who are pushing for more bombings in hopes of wrecking the Mideast peace process. Mr. Ghosheh has said Dr. Zahar spoke for himself, not the group.

Dr. Zahar is careful not to criticise his comrades in exile directly, but says they do not feel the pain of Israeli blockades and Palestinian arrest sweeps — the usual responses to bombing attacks by Hamas.

Dr. Zahar said it was in Hamas' interest not to carry out any attacks ahead of Israel's May 29 general elections.

"What's the big deal to stop the military operations

for a couple of weeks?" Dr. Zahar, a physician, told the Associated Press in an interview in his Gaza City clinic Sunday.

"We asked this so that we will not be a party in the game," he said, adding that he did not want Hamas to be seen as backing either Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres — who would benefit from a period of calm — or hardline challenger Benjamin Netanyahu.

Dr. Zahar has reason to seek revenge against Israel and Palestinian security forces.

In December 1992, he was among 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel to South Lebanon where he spent a year in a makeshift tent camp. Back in Gaza, Dr. Zahar was repeatedly detained by Palestinian police, beaten with electric wire, kept in solitary confinement and humiliated by having his hair and beard shaved off.

He was among 900 activists rounded up after four Hamas suicide bombings in February and March that killed 59 people in addition to four bombers.

Dr. Zahar does not reject violence, but said he preferred to keep his sights on the main objective — the establishment of an Islamic state between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:30 The Flintstones
15:30 Dinosaurs
16:00 The New J Stages
16:30 Bill Nye the Science Guy
16:30 The Secret World of Alex Mac
17:00 News Flash
17:00 Children's Programme — La Chat
17:30 Serie — Maigret Et La Vieille Dame
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Sports Et Musique
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Comedy — Evening Shade
20:00 Computer Chronicles
20:25 Drama — Changer
21:10 UEFA Champions' League '96
22:00 News in English
22:15 Second Hand
23:10 Drama — "Airwolf"
23:55 Are you Being Served

PRAYER TIMES

03:59 Fajr
05:30 (Sharia) Duha
12:32 Dhahar
16:13 'Asr
18:24 Maghrib
21:05 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swidieh, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

62785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490.

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrassac Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

62541.

Anglican Church Tel. 628226.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

732561.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel.

625236.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.

624328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in

Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking

Latin Catholic Parish Tel. 614190

Tel. 811295

English-speaking

Latin Catholic Parish Tel. 614190

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Tel. 811295

English-speaking



SPECIAL EDUCATION: Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, President of the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA), Tuesday looks on as students from the YWMA's special education centre are involved in sports exercises and cultural competitions, as part of the centre's annual sports festival. Attending the festival were also Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the ministers of social development and youth, the ambassadors of Pakistan and Canada as well as a representative of the Japanese ambassador (Petra photo)

Jordanian business delegation visits Spain, seeks to bolster trade

MADRID (J.T.)—King of Juan Carlos of Spain received at his palace in Madrid Tuesday a delegation representing the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) which is currently on a tour of European countries to bolster Jordanian-European economic and trade ties.

The Spanish monarch welcomed the JBA delegation to Spain, wishing them success in their discussions with the Spanish business community within the framework of the meetings of the Jordanian-Spanish Business Council which was formed in October 1994.

JBA Chairman and delegation leader Hamdi Tabbaa voiced Jordan's appreciation of Spain's continued support for Jordan's endeavours at the regional and international levels to attain a durable and just peace in the Middle East region.

He said the Jordanian-Spanish Business

Council aims at bolstering economic and trade ties between the two countries at a time when Jordan is involved in promoting regional cooperation and strengthening ties with the European Union.

Mr. Tabbaa outlined Jordanian legislations for encouraging and promoting investments and called on Spanish business people to contribute to the Kingdom's economic development through investments in the country's tourism, industrial and agricultural sectors.

He noted that Jordan, which is about to enter into partnership with the European Union, will keep the door wide open for cooperation with European countries in economic and other fields.

Following their current visit to Spain the delegation members are scheduled to visit London on the second leg of their tour in Europe.

Prime minister calls for increased consumer protection

AMMAN (Petra)—The Ministry of Supply should impose the strictest possible measures against merchants who tamper with quality and standards and specifications of products, especially food commodities in Jordan, said Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Tuesday.

There is a need for the ministry to intensify its efforts to protect consumers by stricter control methods to ensure quality food supplies be in the local markets at all times, added the Prime Minister during a visit to the Ministry of Supply.

Ministry officials the general supply situation in the Kingdom, the Prime Minister said the government is keen on ensuring sufficient strategic stores of food supplies and animal feed and on ensuring that the subsidies reach the poorer sectors of the public.

He urged the ministry's acting secretary general Ahmad Marie and senior officials to better organise the process of distributing the food coupons and ration cards and guarantee that beneficiaries produce valid family books as a pre-requisite to receive the coupons.

He also said the ministry

ought to coordinate work with the Ministry of Health, the Amman Municipality and the Standards and Specifications Department to control the quality of food supplies in the market.

The prime minister said the Ministry of Supply plays a major role in ensuring social security through guaranteeing sufficient basic food commodities and through controlling prices.

Later, Mr. Kabariti visited the Ministry of Industry and Trade and met its secretary general, Mohammad Smadi, to discuss ministry-related issues.

Jordan needs national strategy for land resource use, Prime Minister says

AMMAN (Petra)—Traditional systems for the use of land's resources in Jordan have to-date proved ineffective, said Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Tuesday. The systems have led to ecological imbalances, poor production, weakened soil fertility and accumulated deficit in meeting the growing demands for food, Mr. Kabariti said.

It is true that Jordan achieved some successes in limited areas—like those carried out by the Aqaba Region Authority, the Jordan Valley Authority and the Petra tourist region, but efforts remain below the level needed to achieve the goals at the national level, said Mr. Kabariti in an address at the opening of a three-day conference of local councils.

What is urgently needed, he said, is a national strategy on the different uses of land to help the country attain integrated and balanced human and natural resources development in various regions.

"Should the conference arrive at a general outline for such strategy, the government will give it due consideration because it is keen on protecting the land that constitutes the main source for development and

economic growth," he said. Such strategy, he added, should help Jordan better utilise its agricultural lands, stop the imbalances in the economic and urban activities and would subsequently help the local councils to carry out town planning in the most satisfactory manner.

"In the present stage, we are in dire need for enhancing the development concept at the local councils level on which basic development schemes at the local and national levels is based," said Mr. Kabariti.

The Prime Minister said this issue could best be overcome through closer cooperation among the neighbouring councils, concerted efforts in drawing up and implementing integrated plans and improving methods for collecting dues.

"Without appropriate and careful planning, local councils would not be able to ensure the required utilisation of land and natural resources and would not be able to attract capital for investments, especially as we are at the threshold of a new era requiring mobilisation of the state's potentials," added Mr. Kabariti.

"Random construction in the urban and rural regions normally results in the loss



Local councils members gather at a three-day national conference Tuesday. Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti told local councils that Jordan needs to seek new systems for the use of

of agricultural lands and consequently poor harvests of food products, added the Prime Minister.

He expressed hope that the conference will come up with recommendations and resolutions that would back the national efforts for balanced and sustainable development.

Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Majali said the government was giving due attention to

the work of the local councils which form the backbone for regional development and improving the local communities living standards.

He said the government is determined to carry out a three-pronged housing programme: to create housing units for state officials in the remote areas, building housing estates for government employees in general and expanding housing

estates for low income groups in cooperation with the private sector.

The three day conference held under the title Comprehensive Planning for Land Use in Jordan will discuss town planning, land use and related issues of concern to municipal councils, according to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tubeishat.

Jordan attends tourism meeting

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The upcoming Japan Week in Jordan not only holds out promises of offering an insight into the Japanese way of life and culture but also deal with subjects that are of high political and economic significance to both countries, judging by the events that the Institute of Diplomacy announced on Tuesday.

Mazen Armouti, president of the institute and head of a national committee in charge of preparing and organising the Japan Week (June 8-29), noted in a press conference that the Japan Week in Jordan follows the successful convening of a Jordan Week in Japan last year and aims at further enhancing Jordanian-Japanese cooperation in all aspects.

As such, in addition to Japanese fashion shows, exhibitions, movies, television programmes, martial arts demonstration, music and a play among other things, a one-day special symposium will be organised on political and economic topics in addition to several other seminars as part of the Japan Week.

Among the issues to be discussed during the symposium, entitled "Japanese-Jordanian Relations II," "The New Middle East and Japan," "Japanese Economic Development and Asia with relevance to Jordan

and the Middle East region," and "Towards the 21st Century and a Possible Model for Jordan and the Region."

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Japan's Prince Takamado, who is fourth in line of succession to the Japanese throne, lead the list of participants in the symposium. Others include Wasuke Miyake, president of the Middle East Institute of Japan, a co-organiser of the event, former Japanese Justice Minister Kazuo Tanikawa and Japanese and Jordanian experts on economic development and Japanese-Jordanian relations.

Sharif Jamil Ben Nasser, honorary chairman of the Jordanian National Committee for the Japan Week in Jordan and president of the Jordan-Japan Friendship Association, will conclude the symposium, which is expected to adopt a declaration on Japanese-Jordanian relations.

At the conclusion of the Jordan Week in Japan in May 1995, attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, a similar declaration was adopted under which Japan considers Jordan as the gateway to the Middle East.

The June 8 symposium is complemented with in-depth debate at other seminars which will deal with issues such as "The Role of Private Sector in Japan and Jordan," "Japan and Jordan

Japan Week offers in-depth review of ties

in the International Society." "Possible development of Tourism Industry in Jordan," "Industrial policy," "Prospects for Economic Cooperation between Japan and Jordan," and "Status of Women in Japan and Jordan."

Naser Judeh, director of Jordan Television and a member of the executive council of the Institute of Diplomacy, announced an advertising and promotion plan for the symposium and the activities of the Japan Week.

The plan, said Mr. Judeh, "generally aims at highlighting the depth and strength of relations between the two friendly peoples of Japan and Jordan."

It aims at introducing to the Jordanian public Japanese culture and heritage, and showing the Japanese participants the different aspects of Jordanian history and its developments in efforts to encourage proper portrayal of Jordan in the Japanese media," he said.

The plan includes a series of press conferences, broadcasting Japan Week programmes and activities on Jordan radio and television, publication of promotional materials and reports, and interviews through the press, radio and television.

A highlight of such focus will be "the dimensions of the Tokyo Declaration," adopted during the Jordan Week in Japan, the results of the symposium on

Japanese-Jordanian relations held in the Japanese capital, and a follow up on the outcome of the Middle East and North Africa economic summit held in Amman in October last year.

The symposium on Japanese-Jordanian relations in June in Amman is organised by the Institute of Diplomacy and the Middle East Institute of Japan and sponsored by the Jordanian and Japanese national committee for the "Japan Week in Jordan."

The Institute of Diplomacy was launched by Crown Prince Hassan in 1994 "to fill the need for an institutional framework that will systematically upgrade the performance and effectiveness of Jordanian diplomats and other personnel involved in international relations and external communications."

The institute, chaired by the Crown Prince, conducts studies and research, collects and publishes relevant literature, data and information, and organises seminars aimed at increasing awareness and knowledge of international developments and events and assessing their impact on Jordan.

The institute has already established arrangements with Jordanian and foreign universities and institutes for exchange programmes and data links.

Fund raiser a success

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Monday's voice and piano recital by American artists Edward Sayegh and Fatimah Tilfah was not only an enjoyable and successful musical event, but also powerful proof that real strength can turn suffering and pain into generosity and determination to help others.

After leukemia took their 24-year-old son in less than one week, Abia and Fouad drew from their pain a reason to try to prevent other fathers and mothers from that same disaster. So they organised in their son Lo'ai's memory an annual cultural event to raise funds for cancer research.

Lyric soprano Fatimah Tilfah and concert pianist and maestro of voice Edward Sayegh provided the Amman public with a precious and rare opportunity

to enjoy pieces of the classic opera repertory, performing arias by Mozart, Schubert, Brahms, Debussy, Puccini, Bernstein and Johann Strauss.

The two young, but already well-known artists of Arab origins were welcomed with standing ovations by an enthusiastic and numerous audience at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The concert's proceeds were donated to the newly-built Amal Cancer Centre, a project which became a reality thanks to the generosity of many donors.

"There is so much suffering and, at the same time, Jordan lacks facilities to treat cancer, so professionals and parents who suffered from the loss of their children gathered twelve years ago and started thinking of building the Amal Cancer Centre," Abdullah Khateeb, president of the General Union of Voluntary

Societies and patrons of the opera concert, told the Jordan Times.

Initially conceived as a paediatric oncology centre, the Al Amal project gradually expanded into a regional centre for cancer research, treatment, rehabilitation and information, with an area of 29,000 square metres, 130 beds, 5 operational rooms and 37 clinics.

"The centre is going to be inaugurated in the coming three months, but only half of the hospital will be operational in the first six months," Dr. Khateeb said.

The centre will also host a 'woman centre' for the early detection of breast cancer.

The Dutch government contributed to the equipment, but \$30 million were raised by local private donors, Dr. Khateeb said. "It was a miracle."

Environmental media workshop begins

AMMAN (Petra)—A three-day workshop on the role of media in promoting environmental health began at the Regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA) Tuesday under the patronage of Health Minister Aref Bataineh.

Director of Primary Health Care department Zuhair Teif, who deputised for Dr. Bataineh, said environmental issues have been placed high on the agendas of international organisations and governments. He praised the international efforts being made to promote and safeguard environmental health.

Dr. Teif said water, air or soil pollution knows no geographical boundaries or limits, thus requiring international cooperation to put an end to environmental hazards and pollution.

Stressing the important

role media can play in changing harmful practice and traditions, Dr. Teif said the media can change such practices and attitudes by communicating the correct scientific concepts and messages relating to environmental protection.

Also addressing the meeting, which is organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) was Dr. Omar Sulaiman, the WHO representative in Jordan who warned against environmental pollution, saying that it raises large scale concern in the region.

He cited rapid population growth in the region, as well as rapid urbanisation, industrialisation and immigration from the rural to the urban areas as major challenges facing this region, because of the pressures they put on the surrounding environment.

WHAT'S GOING ON

CONCERT

Monday, May 21, 7:30 p.m., at the Royal Cultural Centre, Amman. American artists Edward Sayegh and Fatimah Tilfah will perform a voice and piano recital. Tickets: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 120, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 650, 700, 750, 800, 850, 900, 950, 1000, 1200, 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000, 3500, 4000, 4500, 5000, 5500, 6000, 6500, 7000, 7500, 8000, 8500, 9000, 9500, 10000.

FILMS

Monday, May 21, 7:30 p.m., at the Royal Cultural Centre, Amman. A film screening of "The Last Days of Pompeii" by Lucio Fulci. Tickets: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 120, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 650, 700, 750, 800, 850, 900, 950, 1000, 1200, 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000, 3500, 4000, 4500, 5000, 5500, 6000, 6500, 7000, 7500, 8000, 8500, 9000, 9500, 10000.

EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

Monday, May 21, 7:30 p.m., at the Royal Cultural Centre, Amman. A film screening of "The Last Days of Pompeii" by Lucio Fulci. Tickets: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 120, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 650, 700, 750, 800, 850, 900, 950, 1000, 1200, 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000, 3500, 4000, 4500, 5000, 5500, 6000, 6500, 7000, 7500, 8000, 8500, 9000, 9500, 10000.

LECTURE

Monday, May 21, 7:30 p.m., at the Royal Cultural Centre, Amman. A lecture by Dr. Zuhair Teif on "Environmental Health Activities (CEHA)". Tickets: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 120, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 650, 700, 750, 800, 850, 900, 950, 1000, 1200, 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000, 3500, 4000, 4500, 5000, 5500, 6000, 6500, 7000, 7500, 8000, 8500, 9000, 9500, 10000.

EXHIBITIONS

Monday, May 21, 7:30 p.m., at the Royal Cultural Centre, Amman. An exhibition of "The Last Days of Pompeii" by Lucio Fulci. Tickets: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 120, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 650, 700, 750, 800, 850, 900, 950, 1000, 1200, 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000, 3500, 4000, 4500, 5000, 5500, 6000, 6500, 7000, 7500, 8000, 8500, 9000, 9500, 10000.

Air and artillery bombardment pounds Chechnya stronghold

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian air and artillery bombardments pounded Bamut Tuesday amid signs that the Russians would soon storm the ruined southwest Chechen village that has become a symbol of separatist resistance.

During the night, intensive artillery shelling struck Bamut, which is nestled in the wooded foothills of the Caucasus Mountains southwest of the capital Grozny and has long been abandoned by all non-combatants, Interfax News Agency said.

At dawn, jets fired rockets at trenches and bunkers sheltering the fighters, who the Russians estimated to number just 100, the agency said.

The village, which is a mass of ruins and craters, has been bombed or shelled almost every day for over a year, but the bombardment by planes, tanks, howitzers and rockets stationed in the plains below has picked up over the last week.

Russian Anzayev, administrator of the southwest regional centre Achkhoy-Martan was quoted by Echo Moscow radio as saying that troops would attempt to storm Bamut by Friday.

There have been several other assaults on Bamut, all of them beaten

back by the Chechens, who are armed mostly with small arms and anti-tank rockets.

In the last few weeks, Russian forces have captured neighbouring Stary Achkhoy and Orekhovo, also totally ruined villages, cutting off a vital line of support to Bamut.

The offensive came despite President Boris Yeltsin's frequent assertions that the 17-month war in the breakaway republic is over.

On March 31, Mr. Yeltsin made a nationally televised announcement to say that all military actions would be halted at once, but his long-awaited peace plan had virtually no effect on the war.

"This is a clear violation of the president's decree on ending military activities on Chechen territory," Echo Moscow radio quoted Mr. Anzayev as saying.

An estimated 40,000 people have been killed in Chechnya since Russian troops stormed the tiny, Muslim republic in December 1994 to end its declaration of independence.

Mr. Yeltsin has promised to start peace talks and to visit the Russian-controlled capital Grozny before his reelection bid on June 16.

Nezavisimaya Gazeta daily quoted "well-informed sources" as saying that Mr. Yeltsin would arrive on June 3-4. Mr. Yeltsin had previously promised to visit in mid-May.

According to the respected newspaper, Mr. Yeltsin would use the visit, seen by analysts as part of his reelection campaign before the June 16 elections, to fire Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

Gen. Grachev has been connected to a string of scandals and is blamed for the disastrous performance of the Russian troops in Chechnya.

According to Nezavisimaya Gazeta, Mr. Yeltsin has already prepared the decree naming Boris Gromov, a top general during the Soviet war in Afghanistan, as new defence minister.

Both the Chechnya visit and firing the unpopular defence minister would be vote winners, the newspaper said.

There has been increasing speculation that Gen. Gromov is the defence minister in waiting, especially since Mr. Yeltsin made a campaign trip to Volgograd accompanied by Gen. Gromov.

China launches hunt for fleeing monks after Tibet monastery clashes

LHASA (AFP) — China has launched a hunt for hundreds of monks after bloody clashes between monks and Chinese security forces at Ganden Monastery, east of Lhasa, Tibetan sources say.

The sources, in statements at the weekend, also gave a detailed picture of the scale of the casualties among the protesting monks and the scope of a crackdown on monasteries around the Tibetan capital.

Among the heavily injured are two monks who were shot in the leg, one shot in the back and a fourth who had been clubbed over the head and is now unable to speak, the sources said. There were fears for the lives of two of the injured, they added.

At least 40 monks were imprisoned after the clashes, which erupted on May 6 after China issued orders to remove all portraits of Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

The order applies to all premises, not just monasteries, the Tibetan sources said.

Even schoolchildren have been told to remove knotted red religious cords they wear round their necks and which have been blessed by lamas or the Dalai Lama himself, who has lived in exile in Dharmasala, in India since 1959.

Ganden, 40 kilometres to the east of Lhasa, is still off-limits to sightseers.

Tibetan sources said some of the detained monks were badly beaten in custody and witnesses in the city spoke of seeing several injured monks being brought by a truck to hospital for treatment, mostly for extensive bruising injuries.

Only 50 monks, mainly the very old and novices remain at Ganden.

Most of the 600-plus others fled after the incident and are now being hunted, the sources said.

Tibetan sympathisers said their plight was dramatic, since they could not return to the monastery nor go home to their families for

fear of reprisals.

Similar, but less violent disturbances, occurred at two other monasteries — Sera, 10 kilometres north-east of Lhasa and Drepung, six kilometres to the west.

Chinese officials inched into Drepung on May 7 and removed a photograph of the Dalai Lama. Similar action was taken at Sera. Both monasteries immediately closed their doors to the public.

But after two days the abbot from Drepung was summoned by the Chinese administrators and told to reopen the monasteries or face "problems," one source said.

China has tightened up on visas for Tibet, insisting that all foreign tourists be part of a tour group, and not allowed to move around on their own, tour agencies in Kathmandu were told.

One Singapore tourist had been advised before his arrival that he had three days to look around Lhasa on his own, but found instead that he had been allocated a guide for the entire period.

Tourists are allowed to visit both monasteries, but each day a Chinese official visits the premises before and Chinese guards are now billeted there out of sight of tourists, a Tibetan source said.

"No one can predict what will happen now," said a Lhasa store-owner, adding "there is such a lot of tension in the air."

Sera, Drepung and Ganden, all founded in the 15th century, are monastic universities and at the heart of Buddhist life in Tibet.

Sera and Drepung were in the forefront of the 1959 uprising against the Chinese and all three suffered extensive damage during the cultural revolution.

But the lama and monk population at all three has dropped from its peak of 19,000 at the turn of the century to just over 1,500 today.

China says Taiwan words are insufficient to end rift

BEIJING (R) — China issued a veiled attack Tuesday in response to a conditional offer by President Lee Teng-hui of rival Taiwan to visit, and said deeds, not words, were needed to prove Taipei's commitment to reunification.

One of China's top Taiwan watchers said Mr. Lee's speech appeared to offer a shift in attitude but little new in terms of concrete policy from Beijing's point of view to enable strained ties to recover the warmth of the late 1980s and early 1990s.

"The Taiwan authorities must first stop their international activities to create 'two Chinas' or 'one China, one Taiwan', and must take the stand of a single China, not only in words but also in deeds," the Taiwan Affairs Office said in a statement.

The statement made no direct reference to Mr. Lee's offer in his inaugural speech Monday to visit Beijing on a "journey of peace", nor his rejection of Beijing's demand to halt his drive to raise the island's international profile.

However, it indirectly attacked Mr. Lee by voicing Beijing's anger against the phrase "Taiwan as a sovereign body" and the view of Taiwan's "era of power with the people" — both remarks used by Mr. Lee in his Monday speech.

"We are resolutely opposed to this," the Taiwan Affairs Office statement said.

The statement hailed the success of China's determined struggle against the Taiwan independence movement, saying it had uncovered those Taiwan leaders prepared to support unification as a cloak for their pro-independence activities.

"We support the demand of the people of Taiwan to develop a democratic government," the statement said.

"If anyone plots to distort this (China's) struggle as opposition to democracy, this will be in vain," it said.

Cross-strait relations plunged this year when Beijing rattled its sabre at Taipei with

missile tests and war games near Taiwan in the run-up to historic direct presidential elections in March that returned Lee to power.

Officials at the Taiwan Affairs Office said the statement was its only response to Mr. Lee's speech, indicating Beijing was in no hurry to receive the Taiwan president.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman had little to offer, saying the Taiwan issue was an internal Chinese affair.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Lee repeated Taiwan's desire to reunite eventually with China but his offer to travel to Beijing was conditional.

"In the future, at the call of my country and with the support of its people, I would like to embark upon a journey of peace to mainland China," Mr. Lee said.

Chinese officials have said Mr. Lee was welcome to visit in his capacity as chairman of Taiwan's ruling Nationalist Party but not as president.

"I think his political attitude has eased but policy as a whole hasn't changed," Fan Xizhou, director of Taiwan Research Institute at Xiamen University, said in a telephone interview.

"He doesn't say under what title he wants to visit the mainland. So this is just politics and propaganda. It has neither sincere, nor substantive meaning," a Mr. Fan said.

"He doesn't really want to visit the mainland," said Mr. Fan, whose institute is China's leading think tank on Taiwan.

Beijing has demanded concrete action from Mr. Lee to prove the island backs reunification with the mainland and is not merely paying lip service to that goal.

China has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province since the two separated following the defeat of the Nationalists at the end of China's civil war in 1949.

Beijing insists the island is not entitled to foreign recognition.

Hutu extremists step up attacks in Rwanda

KIGALI (AFP) — Hutu extremists have stepped up attacks in southwest Rwanda where nearly 50 people were killed in the latest violence, aid workers said Tuesday.

Some 46 prisoners died when a mortar shell exploded in a packed jail at Bugarama, in the Cyangugu district, overnight Sunday in what aid officials said was an apparently bungled attempt to free genocide suspects.

The attackers had come from neighbouring Burundi, aid officials said.

Two of the 49 prisoners in the jail were wounded and one escaped injury in the attack, which aid workers said lasted several hours.

Hutu extremists also attacked the Nyakabuye Prison in the same district, but were seen off by Rwandan government troops.

One assailant died and a soldier was wounded.

Kigali confirmed the reports later Tuesday. A statement from the Rwandan press agency said a militia commander, called Musirikare, was killed in the Nyakabuye attack.

It said the attack on the Bugarama Prison came a few hours later. The attackers used heavy weapons, killing more than 40 prisoners and causing serious damage to the jail, the statement said.

On Saturday an armed gang attacked a jail at Karengera, freeing around 100 prisoners during a 30-minute shoot-out with government troops, radio Rwanda said.

Observers said Sunday's Bugarama attack may have been an attempt to free Hutu prisoners which misfired, although the ethnic origin of the prisoners was not immediately known.

However, the vast majority of the 71,000 prisoners languishing in crowded Rwandan jails are Hutus, accused of taking part in the ethnic massacres of 1994 which left some 500,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus dead.

The latest round of violence is the worst in southwestern Rwanda for several months.

Rwandan authorities, dominated by Tutsis in power since July 1994, have called on the population to collaborate with government forces to denounce "troublemakers."

The armed forces chief, Colonel Sam Kaka, went to the region Sunday where he called on the population to form themselves into "security groups" to defend themselves.



An Anti-Mafia policeman, wearing a mask to hide his identity, and a colleague escort top Mafia fugitive Vincenzo Brusca Tuesday as he leaves Palermo's police headquarters to be taken to a maximum security prison. Mr. Brusca, accused of masterminding the highway bombing that killed anti-mob Judge Giovanni Falcone along with his wife and three bodyguards on May 23, 1992, and is also believed to have succeeded Salvatore "Totò" Riina as the Mafia's boss of bosses, was arrested with his brother Giovanni (Reuters photo)

Mafia leader's arrest marks major coup for Italian police

PALERMO, Italy (AFP) — The arrest of one of Italy's most dangerous and wanted mafia leaders marks a major coup for Italian police and could deliver a deadly blow to the *cosa nostra*, authorities here said Tuesday.

Giovanni Brusca, 36, who was arrested near the southern city of Palermo Monday, was considered among the most ruthless of a new generation of *cosa nostra* leaders in Sicily that replaced mafia supremo Totò Riina after his arrest in January 1993. His taste for killing and his small beady black eyes had earned him the nickname "The Pig."

Mr. Brusca is suspected of having activated the remote-controlled bomb that killed anti-mafia Judge Giovanni Falcone in 1992 along with his wife and three bodyguards.

He is also suspected of being behind bombings of churches and public buildings in Rome, Florence and Milan in which 10 people died in 1993, and of strangling the 11-year-old son of mafia turncoat Santo Di Matteo. He got rid of the body by dumping it in acid.

"He was perhaps one of the most dangerous (mafia leaders) in Europe," Rino Monaco, the head of the elite police unit that arrested Mr. Brusca at a villa on the outskirts of the Sicilian capital, said.

"He was taken by surprise and did not say a word," Mr. Monaco added. "Not one shot was fired during the entire operation."

Mr. Brusca was nabbed while dining with his companion Rosaria, his 27-year-old brother Vincenzo and his sister-in-law. His three-year-old son by Rosaria was playing

under his feet. Ironically the two couples were watching a television movie about Falcone when about a dozen police officers stormed the house while about 400 others sealed the area outside.

In recent months, Mr. Brusca had managed to evade arrest at least four times. Last January, he managed to make a getaway from another villa outside Palermo where an arms cache was found.

A court had found him guilty in January of killing businessman Ignazio Salvo, a prominent member of the Sicilian mafia, and jailed him in absentia for life.

Pino Arlacchi, a left-wing senator and university professor, said the arrest marked a "deadly blow for the mafia" but cautioned that the fight against organised crime was not over.

Interior Minister Giorgio Napolitano welcomed the arrest, saying it was the "biggest homage for Giovanni Falcone," and a "great success" for police.

Palermo Chief Prosecutor Giancarlo Caselli also hailed the arrest but warned that "cosa nostra is capable of healing its injuries. Our next objective must be to attack cosa nostra's economic power."

he said Mr. Brusca and his brother were questioned in Palermo before being transferred to a high security prison. His companion and sister-in-law were released.

Police said their next objective is the arrest of two other mafia kingpins, Piero Aglieri and Bernardo Provenzano, a former deputy to Mr. Riina.

N. Zealand parties fire 1st shots in election marathon

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand politicians fired the first shots of a marathon election campaign Tuesday after Prime Minister Jim Bolger said the country would go to the polls Oct. 12.

The nation of 3.5 million will leap into the political unknown as it elects its parliament for the first time under a proportional system that will favour coalition governments.

Mr. Bolger told parliament his conservative National Party government, which for the past six years has built on free-market reforms enacted by Labour in the 1980s, would resist attempts to turn back the clock.

"We will vigorously oppose all who seek to take New Zealand back to a failed past," he declared.

Mr. Bolger had to call a general election within six months to waive a costly and distracting by-election in a vacant seat where an opposition MP resigned over a local scandal.

National claims credit for a strong economic recovery that has enabled it to repay debt, cut taxes and build surpluses all at once.

But despite raising spending, it still has a battle on its hands to win acceptance of controversial health and education reforms and cut hospital waiting lists. Immigration, especially from Asia, has also emerged as an emotive election-year issue.

Growth has eased back from its 1994 peak of 6.2 per cent, unemployment rose last quarter for the first time in three years, and interest rate rises will wipe out the benefit of tax cuts for many homeowners.

"This economy is stalling, just like the government," Labour deputy leader David Caygill told parliament. "They're sitting there, going nowhere."

Left-wing alliance leader Jim Anderton said higher taxes were a fair price to pay for reducing the queue of 94,000 people waiting for surgery.

"It is about making New Zealand a better place to live in for all New Zealanders, not



New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger announces to Parliament Tuesday that the country's general election would be held on Oct. 12. New Zealand will leap into the political unknown as it elects its parliament for the first time under a proportional system that favours coalition governments. The announcement was widely expected and follows the resignation of an opposition Member of Parliament (Reuters photo)

just a narrow financial elite," he said of the general election.

The announcement came just two days before a tax-cutting budget in which Finance Minister Bill Birch will unveil treasury's latest growth forecasts.

Deputy Prime Minister Don McKinnon said the government would campaign on policies for an open economy, a low-rate broad-based tax system, a free labour market, and price stability.

An opinion poll last week showed National with a comfortable lead at 40 per cent, but the populist centre-left New Zealand First Party continued a recent surge. It climbed to 25 per cent, with Labour on 16 and the alliance on 12.

New Zealand first, which favours "economic sovereignty" and wants to limit foreign ownership of companies to less than 25 per cent, has soared in popularity since launching a strident campaign for cuts in immigration.

Woman sues Mel Gibson for dog attack

LOS ANGELES (R) — A woman has sued actor and Oscar-winning movie director Mel Gibson alleging his dog bit and injured her, court papers showed. The suit, filed Friday in California Superior Court in Los Angeles by Terry Adamson, seeks damages for medical expenses and loss of earnings and asks for punitive damages against the movie star. It also names his wife Robyn Moore. Ms. Adamson says in her suit that Gibson's unleashed Australian cattle dog known as Maverick attacked her exactly one year ago at Gibson's property in Malibu. She alleged that Gibson knew the dog was "ferocious," with a "vicious nature" and had previously made unprovoked attacks on other people. He kept it unleashed and allowed it to roam the premises. Ms. Adamson said in her suit. Her suit said she suffered physical and mental anguish, but did not specify the extent of her injuries or say how much she was seeking in compensation and punitive damages. There was no immediate comment from Gibson, who this year won the best director and best movie Oscars for his film *Braveheart*.

Sex chat-line costs father \$21,000

BEIJING (AFP) — A Chinese teenager in southern China became hooked on sex chatlines run in Hong Kong, ringing up a bill of 180,000 yuan (\$21,000) to satisfy his craving, the Shanghai Evening News reported in its latest edition. The 18-year-old, living in Guangzhou, saw commercials for the naughty phone-in services on Hong Kong Television, which can be picked up in neighbouring Guangdong province, it said in its Sunday edition. In 22 days, he made 665 calls, to the chagrin of his father, who now faces legal action if the huge bill goes unpaid.

Locklear to return for another season of Melrose Place

NEW YORK (AP) — Heather Locklear will be back for another season of the television show *Melrose Place*, beyond that, don't hold your breath. "I signed on for one more year and that's it," she says in the May 25 issue of TV Guide magazine. "And I think that everybody's contract is up. It will be very expensive to bring us all back. Very." Locklear, 34, who got her start on *Dynasty*, also stars in the upcoming NBC television movie *Shattered Mind*, playing a woman with multiple personalities. As for *Melrose*, Locklear says since the show has done just about everything, its plot lines are getting too outrageous. "It's a little ridiculous. Every character has become almost insane," she says. "You can't distinguish one from another. Now everybody's nasty — and that makes it not so much fun."

'Chinese children are getting chubbier'

BEIJING (AFP) — Obesity among China's 220 million school children is on the rise, the China Daily reported Monday. The number of overweight boys between the ages of seven and 18 rose to 8.65 per cent last year, from 2.75 per cent in 1985. The equivalent figure for girls rose from 3.38 to 7.18 per cent, the official English-language newspaper said. Li Tong, a dietician at the Beijing Children's Hospital, was quoted as saying that Chinese children were snacking too much between meals, tucking into fatty and high-calorie foods. The worst affected tend to be only children, living in towns, who were being spoilt by their parents and grandparents, the report said.



People crowd around a tank near the presidential palace Tuesday. Troops, loyal to President Abdur Rahman Biswas, moved in tanks and encircled the presidential palace on Monday after Mr. Biswas sacked army chief Lieutenant-General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim. Exactly why Biswas fired Nasim was unclear but they clashed over an order from the Defence Ministry, which is under the president's control (Reuters photo)

At least 15 killed in New Delhi shopping arcade bomb blast

NEW DELHI (AFP) — At least 15 people were killed when a powerful bomb blast sparked off an inferno Tuesday in one of New Delhi's busiest shopping arcades, the United News of India and witnesses said. "Many people are feared trapped in the burning arcade," Assistant Police Commissioner K.K. Vyas was quoted as saying by the United News of India, adding the blast was believed to have been caused by a bomb.

Witnesses put at 50 the number of people injured in the blaze in New Delhi's crowded Lajpat Nagar Central Market.

The police and rescuers brought out three charred bodies from the burning arcade following the deafening explosion at peak shopping time.

"We heard a loud bang and then people started screaming," an inspector said from a police station located opposite the Lajpat Nagar Central Market.

The explosion occurred around 6:45 p.m. (1315 GMT). A police control room spokesman said.

Rescuers said ambulances ferried at least 22 people including storekeepers, shoppers and children to local hospitals. Some of them were seriously hurt.

Some injured survivors in blood-streaked clothes were seen squatting outside a police cordon waiting for the ambulances to return. Officials said the blast was very powerful.

"The explosion was of very high intensity as splinters were found in a radius of 200 metres," said police control room Inspector Neelam Gandhi.

She confirmed eyewitness accounts that the blast occurred in a car park in central market, packed with more than 3,000 shoppers at the time of the explosion.

The witnesses said the explosion took place in a private van parked at the sprawling central market, triggering a stampede in the narrow alleys of the arcade.

India's opposition takes first step to oust Hindu nationalist government

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Former Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress (I) Party and its allies Tuesday named a candidate for the post of speaker in parliament in a first step to topple India's first rightwing Hindu government.

The Congress and a coalition of leftist-centrist parties named Mr. Rao's former Information Minister P.A. Sangma as their "consensus candidate" for the crucial post in the 545-seat Lok Sabha, or lower house, the coalition announced.

"It has been decided to put up Sangma as our common candidate for the office of the speaker," Congress spokesman Vithal Gadgil said and added his party had the backing of the leftist-centrist coalition.

The top legislative post of the speaker carries enormous powers, and any political party which fills the office with its candidate has a vital edge over rivals in day-to-day functioning of the bicameral house.

Mr. Sangma, a tribal politician from India's far-east, faces possible questioning in connection with allegations that thousands of government officials bribed his staff to obtain cheap official housing.

His nomination came a day after the government of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) said it would not contest the opposition on the speaker's post, and would also settle for a "consensus candidate."

The future of the first Hindu nationalist government will be put to the test when parliament opens a crucial session Wednesday, but the BJP Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has hinted he was on his way out.

The 10-day session, the first after the April-May general elections left a fractured parliament, will begin with oath taking by newly-elected MPs in the Lok Sabha and will be followed by the speaker's election a day later.

President Shankar Dayal Sharma will address both houses Friday, and Mr. Vajpayee will have to win a vote of confidence before the presidential deadline of May 31 to remain in office.

But Mr. Vajpayee, 69, hinted in remarks

"The bomb in a parked van also blasted away two other parked cars," said resident Shyam Kumar.

The Fire Department said some 150 shops packed with readymade garments, footwear and household goods were on fire or blown away by the impact of the blast.

"We have sent 25 trucks so far but the fire is spreading. It is still out of control and anyone trapped inside has little chance of coming out," a Fire Department spokesman told AFP from the site of the inferno.

"It looks it could be impossible to save this market," a Lajpat Nagar resident added as billowing smoke engulfed the commercial-cum-residential district located in New Delhi's upscale South District.

Witnesses said residents in homes adjoining the burning market were being evacuated because of growing fears of the blaze spreading in the now-cordoned off district.

The burning shopping district was a favourite haunt of housewives and college students. It also has a section for high-fashion furniture.

Tuesday's blast is the second in New Delhi since April 20 when an explosion brought down a low-budget hotel killing 17 overseas and domestic tourists in the heart of the Indian capital.

A Kashmiri guerrilla group and a Sikh separatist organisation from the northern state of Punjab jointly claimed responsibility for the death of the 17 tourists saying they bombed the four-storey hotel in Paharganj.

But police are yet to establish the cause of the dilapidated hotel's collapse.

A week later, an explosion in a bus killed 13 passengers on April 27 in the northern industrial town of Modinagar, some 50 kilometres from the Indian capital.

So far nobody has claimed responsibility for Tuesday's blast in the Lajpat Nagar Market.

published Tuesday that his five-day-old BJP government would not survive the vote.

"Whatever the decision of the house, I shall take it in my stride," Mr. Vajpayee told the Times of India, adding that the BJP was still attempting to woo regional parties in the house.

The veteran BJP leader reiterated that his pro-Hindu party, which assumed office here May 16, would not indulge in horse-trading to gather badly required support from opposition MPs to remain in power.

Mr. Vajpayee also described himself as an "interim prime minister" in the interview, indicating that his days as the nation's 10th premier were numbered.

The BJP and its four small allies command 194 mps in the Lok Sabha, while the combined opposition, with more than 300 MPs, had pledged to bring down the government.

Mr. Vajpayee's remarks coincided with a crash in stock prices in the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) late Monday.

The blue-chip BSE Sensitive Index fell 101.57 points to close at 3,694.57 points, wiping out in one trading session the gain of more than 100 points made during the past week.

Mr. Vajpayee's waning confidence has been matched by the opposition's determination to vote out the BJP administration despite simmering differences within its ranks.

Leaders of more than a dozen centrist, regional and leftist parties late Monday vowed to remain united and topple Mr. Vajpayee's government with the backing of the Congress.

"We are totally united in our resolve to dislodge the communal government," said Harkishan Singh Surjeet, a Communist leader. "The minority BJP government ... will only lead to the disintegration of the country."

Campaigning for elections ends in troubled Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Campaigning for elections in India's troubled Kashmir Valley ended Tuesday with New Delhi and Kashmiri separatists determined to make it a referendum on direct federal rule.

"The elections should be a referendum for the democratic process to set in the state," said a senior army official who asked not to be identified.

He said security forces had been alerted to avert attempts by separatists to disrupt Thursday's polling in Baramulla and Anantnag constituencies.

Srinagar, summer capital of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, will vote on May 30, along with Udhampur in the Jammu area.

Islamic rebels have in recent weeks stepped up attacks on security forces in the heart of Srinagar in a powerful effort to abort the elections, the first in the state since a separatist revolt erupted six years ago.

Police and hospitals say more than 20,000 people have died in the violence.

A record 110 candidates, guarded by bodyguards and bulletproof vans, are running for office although the national conference, the state's most established party, and many other groups are boycotting the polls.

A spokesman for the All Parties Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference, an umbrella group for separatist parties, said the polls would be a fraud.

"The struggle for freedom will continue unabated. The elections will be a sham. They will be rigged with the army forcing the voters to come out. India will be the loser," Hurriyat spokesman, Abdul Ghani Bhat, told Reuters.

The moderates among the separatists have called a three-day general strike from Tuesday and are carrying out a door-to-door campaign against voting.

The four constituencies are the last to vote in India's staggered general elections for a 545 seat parliament. The results will not tip the balance in the hung parliament, where the new Hindu nationalist minority government faces a vote of confidence within 10 days.

But Indian officials said they expected many voters to endorse the legitimacy of the election.

"This time the election means a lot for the people. They are frustrated and tired of all the violence," Anantnag district magistrate, C.L. Raina, told Reuters.

Mr. Raina said he expected a moderate turnout of 25 to 30 per cent of voters, much higher than the five to seven per cent in the last time elections were held in 1989.

Bangladeshi government orders probe into army revolt

DHAKA (AFP) — The Bangladesh government Tuesday ordered a probe into a minor revolt after it said it had regained full control over the military and detained the head of the armed forces.

"A high-powered court of enquiry is being constituted to find out the facts and ... identify the persons involved in the incidents that took place in the Bangladesh army," state-run television said, quoting a Defence Ministry statement.

Tanks that late Monday had taken up position outside the presidential palace withdrew around noon after army chief Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Muhammad Nasim was taken into "protective custody" and his successor, Major General Mahubur Rahman, stifled a messy and rather confused rebellion.

The heads of the air force and navy also pledged their allegiance Tuesday to President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

In Dhaka, where tension ran high Monday over Mr. Biswas's sacking of Gen. Nasim, life swiftly returned to normal, with the streets typically congested with traffic and schools and offices opening as usual.

Some downtown streets also became the scene of rallies and marches by political activists ahead of the June 12 general elections, some of them shouting slogans supporting or opposing the action taken by Mr. Biswas against Gen. Nasim.

There were no reports of violence or major incidents. The Awami League party chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed Tuesday expressed her fears that Mr. Biswas was continuing to intervene in the affairs of the caretaker government to foil the elections, citing Gen. Nasim's sacking as evidence of this.

"People of the country



Bangladeshi troops, loyal to President Abdur Rahman Biswas, guard a strategic point in Dhaka city Tuesday (Reuters photo)

have installed you to power to oversee the general elections and therefore you don't need to feel weak," she said, referring to caretaker government chief Mohammad Habibur Rahman.

But she questioned: "Are you discharging your responsibilities freely or are your activities being interrupted" by Mr. Biswas.

This was Mrs. Hasina's first rally since Gen. Nasim was sacked.

Mr. Biswas, a member of former Prime Minister Khleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), is also the defence minister.

He said earlier his actions were in line with the constitution and aimed at restoring discipline in the armed forces.

Sammilita Nari Samaj or Combined Women Society, a women's voluntary organisation, echoed Mrs. Hasina's apprehension warning Bangladeshis would not tolerate any conspiracy to foil the polls.

The Awami League led the opposition campaign

that forced Mrs. Khleda to stand down as premier in March.

Resident in the port city of Chittagong said business and shipping activity were normal despite the overnight partial revolt in Dhaka and at least two garrison areas to the north of the city.

One witness said that he had seen up to 40 soldiers being treated in a hospital in Manikganj, central Bangladesh, for bullet wounds sustained during skirmishes Monday.

"Troops who had earlier moved from the Bogra and Mymensingh areas toward Dhaka returned to their respective barracks," a Defence Ministry statement said, adding Gen. Rahman had taken full command of the Bangladesh army.

Mr. Biswas accused the ex-military chief of refusing to order two senior officers to retire. He also said Gen. Nasim had called on his followers to march on the capital.

It was unclear how many troops backed Gen. Nasim. But defence sources said

large numbers of them remained at large, although some were gradually returning to their barracks.

The fate of the fallen army chief could depend on changes in the political situation in Bangladesh, analysts said Tuesday.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), of which a transcript was made available to Dhaka newspapers, Gen. Nasim denied charges of disloyalty and said his forces were committed to ensuring support to the caretaker government to ensure free elections.

The crisis erupted after the president ordered the retirement of Major General G.H. Morshed Khan, the Bogra district commander, and Brigadier Miran Hamidur Rahman, deputy-director of the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles.

The more than 100,000-strong armed forces ruled Bangladesh directly or indirectly between 1975 and 1990, but took a backseat after democracy was restored in 1991.

ETA guerrillas believed behind Spanish blasts

MADRID (R) — Spanish police Tuesday detonated the last of three bombs in the southern city of Cordoba believed to have been planted by separatist Basque guerrillas as a show of force against the new conservative government.

An army sergeant who served as a U.N. peacekeeper in former Yugoslavia was killed and three people were wounded Monday morning when one of the bombs exploded in a Cordoba street. The blast narrowly missed a busload of soldiers.

On Monday night, nine people — mostly bystanders who had ignored orders to leave the area — were injured when police detonated a car rigged with 40 kg of explosives near the site of the attack, state radio said.

The blast sent the car flying 40 metres in the air and shattered windows in nearby streets, it added.

The radio said police detonated the last of the three bombs, a car packed with about 100 kilogramme of explosives, before dawn Tuesday.

Police said they believed the first blast was meant to lure them into the

area. The two car bombs would then have been set off to kill as many rescuers and security personnel as possible. It was not clear why the two car bombs had not gone off.

The attack, blamed by officials on the ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) guerrilla group, was the first since the government of centre-right Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar took office on May 5 after 13 years of Socialist rule.

Mr. Aznar said his administration would respond "quickly and with actions".

ETA's political wing Herri Batasuna suggested talks on Basque independence but Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja said government moves would not be dictated by terrorist acts.

Monday morning's explosion in a rubbish container at a bus stop routinely used by soldiers in Cordoba killed Sergeant Miguel Angel Ayllon, 27, and wounded another military man and a civilian couple, police said.

The bomb appeared to have gone off prematurely, missing a military bus which picks up troops at the stop every

morning and which was 200 metres away at the time, officials said.

Aznar's aides had warned friendly foreign governments to expect an upsurge in violence by ETA separatists once his Popular Party (PP) reached office.

Officials and diplomats said the bombs were clearly designed as a message from ETA that there would be no let-up in violence under the new government.

"We must brace for the worst. One must realise ETA will strike whenever and wherever they can," said an Interior Ministry spokesman. "This is a terrorist act by ETA designed to say 'we're here'."

ETA has killed 800 people since 1968 in a drive for full independence from Spain for the Basque country, which straddles the Pyrenees from southern France to northern Spain.

Mr. Aznar's PP promised in its election campaign that it would take a tougher stance against ETA, ensuring all jailed rebels served out their full sentences.

Burma's Suu Kyi says party to meet despite arrests

BANGKOK (R) — Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi said Tuesday the authorities had detained 44 activists planning to attend a National League for Democracy (NLD) congress, but she said the meeting would still go ahead.

"To date we know that 46 people have been arrested, 44 elected representatives and two wives who were arrested because their husbands were not at home," Ms. Suu Kyi told Reuters by telephone from Rangoon.

"Yes, of course," she said when asked if she would still hold the NLD congress, which is due to begin Sunday.

A diplomat speaking from the Burmese capital said Ms. Suu Kyi and the military were now on a collision course: "It's fairly clear that both sides are heading for a showdown Sunday."

The planned NLD congress is being held to mark the sixth anniversary of the 1990 election

in which the party won more than 80 per cent of the seats but was denied power by the ruling military.

"We have invited our representatives to this congress but obviously the SLORC doesn't want it," Ms. Suu Kyi said, referring to the ruling military body, the State Law and Order Restoration Council.

She said the arrests, which began in the provinces Monday, showed the military lacked confidence.

"I think it's because they know we have the support of the people and they're not confident in their own position," Ms. Suu Kyi said. "If they were confident in their own position a meeting of two or three hundred people would not worry them."

The SLORC has yet to officially announce any detentions but earlier Tuesday it issued a stiff warning clearly aimed at Ms. Suu Kyi and her party.

It said action would be taken against "destructive groups" and "traitors endangering the stability of the state".

Military intelligence chief Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt said in a speech reported in state-run newspapers Tuesday that "lack of confidence in the military body, the State Law and Order Restoration Council, economic and social objectives".

Ms. Suu Kyi said NLD Chairman Aung Shwe sent a letter to SLORC Chairman General Than Shwe to protest the detention of the NLD members.

She said more arrests of her party members were likely and she did not rule out the authorities taking action against her and other NLD leaders.

"Anything is possible in an authoritarian state," she said.

A diplomat speaking from the Burmese capital said the arrests appeared to be a "pre-emptive containment" of the NLD ahead of their planned congress.

"It's the idea of a parallel

convention by the 1990 elected parliament which rivals their own national convention, that's what's so threatening to the SLORC," he said, referring to the continuing constitutional convention organised by the military.

Ms. Suu Kyi, daughter of the architect of Burma's independence from Britain, General Aung San, was released from six years' house arrest last July and immediately called for dialogue with the SLORC.

While repeatedly urging her supporters to be patient, last November she withdrew the NLD from the National Convention, saying the proceedings were unrepresentative.

She has also urged foreign businessmen considering investing in Burma to wait until democracy is restored.

"What's really annoyed the SLORC is that the NLD hasn't given them any credit for anything they've done and the NLD has also sought to stymie foreign trade and investment," the diplomat said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 684311, 699634

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the

Jordan Times advertising department.

Limited but welcome step

THERE SEEMS to be a consensus among countries of the world in hailing the just-concluded oil-for-food deal between the U.N. and Iraq. Jordan of course was among the first to praise the accord as a significant breakthrough to alleviate the conditions of the Iraqi people. Alleviation of the suffering Iraqis has consistently been this country's top priority, and Jordanians can only be relieved that their brethren in Iraq are hopefully on the way to full recovery and reintegration in the international community.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, in welcoming the signing of the 51-paragraph memorandum of understanding on implementing Resolution 986, has described it as "a success for the Security Council," which directly brokered the deal. The U.S., on the other hand, came out strongly in support of the accord, with the American ambassador to the U.N., Madeleine Albright, calling it a "great victory" for the Iraqi people. But no matter who emerged as the political winner from the many rounds of negotiations, we cannot lose sight of the fact that the deal remains only a step towards a real solution to the problems in and around Iraq. In this context, it must be understood that the suffering in Iraq is not solely about material concerns although they are very important. "Man does not live on bread alone," we are reminded over and over again. Once the stomachs of the innocent Iraqi civilians are filled again and their bodies healed from diseases and illnesses, their minds and souls would start yearning for things that are even more sublime than bread and butter issues. Unlike animals, human beings starve for human rights and democracy as much as they suffer from the denial of food and medicine. We hope, therefore, that the ending of the plight of the Iraqi people would not be limited to the partial lifting of economic sanctions against their country but would be extended to the lifting of other restrictions affecting their daily lives.

Freedom of movement for Iraqis is among the most urgent needs. Contacts between Iraqis and the outside world have been very limited at best for nearly six years. If the full rehabilitation of Iraq into the international community is still far away, then the least that we should expect at this juncture is for the Iraqi people to gradually regain their human and basic rights.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WELCOMING IRAQ'S acceptance of the United Nations plan to sell Iraqi oil to buy medicine and food for the Iraqi people, Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday said that the move will no doubt contribute to improving the living conditions of the Iraqis who have suffered a great deal from the six-year-old embargo. The Iraqis paid a heavy price for their government's invasion of Kuwait and thousands have perished because of lack of sufficient medicine and food, but the time has now come for ending the Iraqi people's ordeal, said the paper. It was only when the Iraqi government agreed to comply with all the preconditions and the terms of the United Nations that the decision has been taken to carry out the humanitarian move, said the paper. It is hoped, said the paper, that this partial lifting of the U.N. embargo will lead to further measures to totally terminate the U.N. sanctions, but such a move would require Iraq's compliance with the rest of the U.N. conditions and demands. The Iraqi economy, which has been devastated for six years, said the daily, could be on its way to becoming healthy again if the lifting of the sanctions is achieved and if the Arabs reestablish solidarity among themselves and unify their ranks.

A WRITER for Al Dustour expressed the view that Iraq and Syria would never reconcile their differences as long as the regimes in Baghdad and Damascus remain in place. The differences between the two Arab countries are not due to disputes over the ideology of the Baath Party but rather to the differences in the governing systems of the two countries and their respective alliances with the other countries in the region, said Saleh Qallab. Referring to a call by the Iraqi daily Babil, on Syria to end its differences with Iraq so that the two states can move on towards forming a united front under the Baath Party, the writer said that this dream can never come true because the hatred created by the actions of each side towards the other is deeply rooted. For its part, Iraq will never forgive Syria for siding with Iran in the first Gulf war and with the U.S.-led military coalition in the second Gulf war, while Syria can never accept to sacrifice its alliance with Iran for the sake of closing ties with Baghdad and will not sell out gains it acquired so far by siding with the enemies of the Iraqi regime.

Washington Watch

Likud dominates U.S. election debate

By Dr. James Zogby

FOR THERE to be peace there must be a constituency that supports and works for peace. This must be the true not only in Israel and among the Arabs, but in the U.S. as well.

The most disturbing aspect of the past two and a half years has not been the extent to which the peace process has been disrupted by the policies and actions of extremists in the Middle East, but the extent to which anti-peace rhetoric and policies continue to dominate U.S. politics.

This is nowhere more evident than debates in Congress and in congressional election campaigns. Not only did the Republicans gain control of Congress in 1994, but many of those Republicans who assumed key leadership positions were allies of the pro-Likud faction in the U.S. Jewish community.

As a result, this Congress has been an extraordinary obstacle to peace and has not only distorted the U.S. role in the peace process but has also worked to negatively influence the way others think about Arabs and Islam.

It is this Congress that passed legislation mandating the move of the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. It is this Congress that has tied humiliating conditions to U.S. aid to Palestinians and has continued to press that each of its conditions be met. And it is this Congress that regularly threatens to tie the hands of the administration in the Middle East peace process unless the administration bends to its

will. Not only do we have, as is the common refrain in the Arab World, an extremely pro-Israel administration that will not publicly pressure or criticize even the most outrageous Israeli behaviour — we also have a pro-Likud Republican leadership in the Congress that often poses a threat to the administration by tying its hands and pressing on it anti-peace policies.

Even now, after Israel's horrible assault against Lebanon, the administration is seeking ways to provide some assistance to Lebanon. But the same Congress that would generously increase aid to Israel, is willing to send only a few million to Lebanon. And one powerful Senator has so far succeeded in blocking any consideration of an administration request to send some excess military equipment to assist the struggling Lebanese army.

Even after the Palestine National Council met the congressional-established deadline and voted to revoke sections of the PLO Charter that contradicted the Oslo I and Oslo II agreements, the congressional leadership is still not satisfied and will not release the last \$410 million in money already allotted to the Palestinians in the 1996 budget.

The rhetoric these congressmen use to deride the Palestinian leadership is embarrassing. It is Likud language, and more reminiscent of the darkest days of the Reagan era than in

line with expectations in the "era of peace."

Compounding this problem of the anti-peace movement is the confluence of the U.S. and Israeli election campaign.

Speeches given by congressmen to the recent meeting of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) — the powerful pro-Israel lobby in Washington were largely replicas of those given in an earlier time. The American Jewish community, conditioned by 12 years of Likud rule in Israel and the accompanying rhetoric of hatred and fear, responded enthusiastically to pledges to support Israeli military supremacy, to condemnations of Islamic fundamentalism, to pledges of even greater pressure on the Palestinians until they stop terrorism and change their charter, and to unquestioning support for every action and policy of the Israeli government.

Because fear is a more powerful force than hope for peace, politicians find it easier to mobilise support around this strong emotion. For the very same reason, the Labour Party in Israel has blurred the lines between itself and the Likud in a desperate effort not to lose its election campaign. This was the source of the decision for the ruthless bombing of Lebanon, the imposition of the stranglehold closure on the occupied territories, the continued building of new settlements and land confiscations, and hysterical campaign against "fundamentalism."

All of this translates as well into business as usual in the U.S. election year debate.

Reading the Middle East policy statements of candidates running for the Senate and Congress seeking support from the American Jewish community, it is difficult to remember that there is a peace process under way.

These statements, frequently written for the candidate by pro-Israel supporters (all the candidates are then asked to do is to endorse the position), emphasise the themes of the past. For the most part, candidates pledge "uncompromising support for Israel" as "America's steadfast and only democratic ally — a nation with which we have shared values and interests." Peace becomes peace for Israel alone, and so the candidates pledge "to stand by Israel as it takes risks for peace." And then comes the all too familiar refrain of commitments to:

- maintain Israel's military superiority;
- maintain Israel's aid at current levels;
- punish nations that do not make peace with Israel; and
- insistence that the U.S. Embassy in Israel be moved to Jerusalem.

Lost in all of this, in both Israel and the U.S., is any substantial discussion of the requirements of peace. How, one might reasonably ask, can there be peace when both politicians and public opinion are sustaining the rhetoric of war?

I argued two and half

years ago in articles and speeches before both Arab and Jewish audiences, that for there to be peace, a new paradigm had to be constructed. Both Arabs and Jews needed to provide mutual support and recognition of each other's rights and needs.

If one side seeks peace while the other side, out of weakness and fear, seeks only to maintain its superiority, then the peace that is realised will, by definition, be a distorted one.

This, thus far, is the state of the 1996 political discussion. The challenge here in the U.S. is for Arab Americans to insist that the American Jewish leadership assume responsibility for what is taking place in the electoral debate. To say, as they do, that they are committed to peace while allowing pro-Likud elements to dominate the political discussion (because more popular and comfortable rhetoric of the past) is unacceptable.

The mainstream of the American Jewish community cannot celebrate the destructive legislation to move the U.S. embassy, seek to smear and isolate mainstream American Muslim organisations, support politicians who spout anti-peace and anti-Palestinian rhetoric, remain silent in the face of the destruction of Lebanon — and still expect to be viewed as partners in the peace process.

This must change, and it is our challenge in 1996.

Algeria, on the democratic path, can fight challenge of violence

By G. H. Jansen

IN ALGERIA militant Islam, or political Islam, has sustained a severe setback. So much so that it is difficult to recall or even to believe that hardly a year ago Algeria, the state and society, seemed on the brink of dissolution under the impact of a civil war that had been going on since 1992 and because of an aborted election in December 1991.

The havoc was being wreaked by two Islamist opposition parties, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and the more extreme Armed Islamic Group (GIA). At the height of the insurrection these two groups between them were killing, perhaps, 400 people a week and it is estimated that in all, 50,000 persons were killed during these four years of the FIS/GIA campaign.

It is this explosion of Islamist bloodlust that was mainly responsible for the Islamists' eventual defeat. For what the Islamists waged was a war of terror against an entire society by murdering intellectuals, especially those in any way Westernised, journalists, schoolgirls if they refused to wear the veil or Islamic dress, feminists, politicians and artists; burning down schools and universities and attacking foreign technicians and businessmen, even sportsmen, attacking mosques and hospitals.

How did Algeria free itself from this hideous nightmare, supposedly a prelude to the establishment of an Islamic state?

The main credit must go to the Algerian army, which brutally and resolutely fought the Islamists to a standstill, though it took them two years to do so: because the army itself was divided between moderate "conciliators" and hardline "eradicators" who lived up or down to that designation.

The army's ascendancy began to be asserted from

March 1994 when it inflicted heavy casualties on the GIA in a particularly punishing ambush. But the Islamists had already started committing suicide for the Islamic Salvation Army, the military wing of the FIS broke with the GIA which had openly denounced the FIS and the Salvation Army as its "enemy."

If the actions of the GIA sound familiar, it is because in its cruelty it bore distinct resemblance to the cruel actions of the Taliban in Afghanistan and to the non-Islamic Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. The GIA did not just kill people by shooting them; it punished its enemies by gouging out their eyes or beheading them.

destroy each other. This

intermediate struggle was

made possible, if not positively

encouraged, by the fact that

Islamist leaders like Abbas

Madani and Ali Bel Haj were

jailed at the beginning of the

war and so were incommunicado.

Plus the fact that the army

intelligence had penetrated the

ranks of the GIA, and in any

underground struggle, intelligence

is the most powerful weapon.

One other factor that

helped defeat the Islamists

is that both sides showed

restraint in using the Algerian

economy as a weapon or a

field of battle. It was noteworthy

that while the Islamists attacked a

wide variety of institutions, usu-

ally by burning down their buildings, they left the vital oil and wine producing sectors virtually untouched, even though the production of wine is, in Islamic terms, "haram", "forbidden."

Because the Islamists recognised that if they crippled the large oil and wine sectors, the first persons to suffer would be the lower middle class members of their massive following.

trait of the GIA and, to a

lesser extent, of the FIS,

was the arrogant Islamist

claim that it was the sole

expression of militant Islam

and of Algerian national

independence. As a result,

other respectable and well-

established political group-

ings — like the Berber

Socialist Force Front (FFS)

and the old Liberation

Front (the FLN), which led

Algeria's long-struggle

against the French — eventually shifted from opposition to the army to cooperation with the president. This did not happen, however, until after the presidential election held in November 1995.

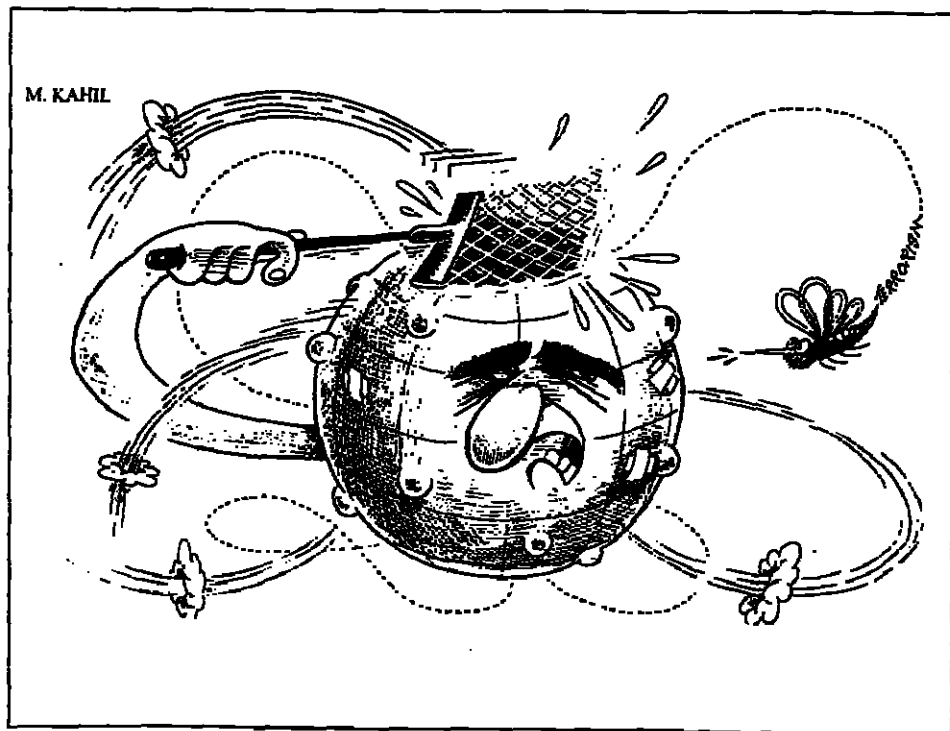
The Islamists, inevitably, opposed the election with bitter hostility and openly threatened to kill anyone who voted. However, the ordinary people in Algeria had become so alienated from and disgusted with the GIA's cruelty and violence that they determined to vote — and in large numbers. Overall participation was very high, at 75 per cent, with 61 per cent voting for Mr. Zeroual.

There is a lesson here for Jordan, which is that the most effective weapon against the arrogance and excesses of militant Islamists is democracy, but only if it is a genuine democracy and not the formalised imitation that is so often found in Arab countries.

Since his victory, with his legitimacy now solidly based, President Zeroual has announced that a constituent assembly would be convened in the second half of this year to draft a new constitution in preparation for parliamentary and municipal elections in 1997.

Thus, Algeria, a country that a year ago was dismissed as a hopeless case is now well and truly launched on a programme that will democratise the country's authoritarian political system — a system that had failed, and transformed its command economy that was breaking down, into a market economy.

And all this through people's power, using the modality of democracy. Plus, of course, the readiness of the defenders of democracy to match the violent challenge mounted by the enemies of democracy even if they did so in the sacred name of religion.



It was precisely the cruelty

and extremism of the

GIA that split the ranks of

the Islamists because the

FIS broke away from the

GIA because of its indis-

criminate violence. And not

just the FIS, but moderate

Islamic groups as well, like

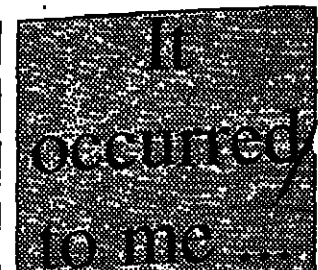
Hamas led by Sheikh Nah-

nah, so that the army under

the leadership of President-

General Liamine Zeroual

could leave the Islamists to



Sheer villa-ny

By Ali Kassay

In the brave days of yore, when Jordan was a poor country with a low literacy rate and an almost total absence of university degree holders, houses used to be designed and built by traditional master-builders, not by architects and engineers. Those houses, some of which still stand between the First and Third circles of Amman, were functional, light and energy-efficient, as well as beautiful.

Jordan has come a long way since those days. Now a considerable section of our society is very affluent. Jordanians have travelled and interacted with other cultures. Today the country prides itself with one of the highest rates of university degree holders per capita in the world. As a result of this major leap forward, conventional houses have given way to villas, designed by architects, executed by civil engineers, and which constitute one of the country's most prominent eye-sores.

Geometry has never had it so good. As you roam in the more modern suburbs of Amman, you are greeted by a dazzling array of architectural styles, from the Neolithic era to the neon-lit age. The dominating dome stands as an elaborate assertion of our Arab-Islamic patrimony, which competes for your rapt appreciation with upright, Graeco-Roman columns, and oblique Alpine roofs in such a variety of colours that you wonder if all the tiles were stolen from the same public lavatory. And the beauty of Amman is that you find all the above in the same edifice.

On the inside, the ever-present art-deco staircase, and the piano which none in the house can play, attests to an avid watcher of Egyptian movies of the thirties and forties. A romantic at heart, the Jordanian householder pays considerable money to satisfy his fantasy of seeing his wife make a dramatic entrance à la Fatima Hama. Then he realises to his alarm that women wear long gowns in the hey day of the Egyptian musical, whereas the apple of his eye is clad in a mini, so he proceeds to pour good money after bad to have the carved-wood banister wrapped in material to cover the space under the railing.

Another feature of the old houses of Amman was the veranda overlooking the garden. You were always certain to find some member of the family lounging there in the long summer afternoons, filling his lungs with the delicate fragrance of the jasmine, while admiring the geraniums and roses further beyond. Today the garden has given way to the garage, so the householder encloses himself behind tinted glass windows, listens to the gentle hum of the air-conditioning unit, while admiring the flora on four wheels that adorn the space outside.

I try to imagine what archaeologists will think of Amman in a few hundred years. How will they interpret this hodgepodge that attempts to combine the baroque with the barmy, the florid rococo with the utterly regious? Will they imagine that Amman was subjected to an invasion by post-modernist pliers?

It makes one wonder about our architects. They have acquired university degrees, but they seem to lack taste by degrees. One wonders if their time might not have been better employed had they taken an apprenticeship under a traditional master-builder instead.

Lebanon to complain Israel breached truce

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon will lodge a complaint over what it says was an Israeli violation of a ceasefire that ended a 16-day Israeli blitz of the country, Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri was quoted on Tuesday as saying.

In Washington, Israel and its Arab neighbours disagreed on Monday on a nearly deal to monitor the ceasefire in Lebanon, despite U.S. calls for a quick agreement following fresh clashes there.

Mr. Hariri was quoted by Beirut newspapers as telling reporters in Paris that Lebanon would lodge the complaint with a five-nation ceasefire monitoring committee that is being formed.

"Without a doubt, we will press a complaint to the committee pertaining to the breach," Mr. Hariri said after meeting French President Jacques Chirac on Monday.

He was referring to an incident on Sunday in which Lebanese security sources said Israeli tanks fired solid carrying no explosives into villages north of Israel's South Lebanon occupation zone, wounding a woman.

The April 26 ceasefire understanding bars attacks by both sides from or at civilian areas. It does not bar guerrilla attacks on troops in the zone Israel has occupied since 1985 to ward off cross-frontier raids.

Guerrillas have wounded seven Israeli soldiers in attacks on the zone since the ceasefire.

Sunday's shelling came after two Hizbollah guerrillas were killed and an Israeli soldier was wounded in a clash in the zone.

On Monday, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez accused Israel of violating the ceasefire by shelling civilian areas but said Beirut could not press a complaint as the ceasefire committee was not formed yet.

Mr. Hariri said he discussed the commitment with Mr. Chirac, adding it would begin work "very soon." France will be on the committee with the United States, Israel, Lebanon and Syria.

Delegates from the five countries have been meeting in Washington to discuss formation of the committee to monitor the ceasefire on the last active war front of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Syria said on Sunday the Israeli shelling of civilian targets was a violation of the ceasefire understanding.

Israel said civilian casualties were the responsibility of Hizbollah guerrillas, whom it accused of violating the ceasefire by operating from a built-up area and then withdrawing to a village.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher declined to take sides on Monday over who was to blame for Sunday's fighting, saying the facts were still "cloudy."

Mr. Christopher told reporters he hoped the violence was over, and said it emphasised the need for setting up

the proposed monitoring group to check compliance with the U.S.-brokered ceasefire.

The Washington ambassadors of Israel, Syria, Lebanon and France met U.S. special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross at the State Department in a bid to resolve remaining differences over a draft monitoring plan they drew up last week.

They considered comments on the plan from their five governments, which reviewed the draft over the weekend.

But the envoys later left, saying they would meet again on Tuesday in view of continued disputes over the fine print of the accord.

Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich told reporters: "The Lebanese and Syrian delegations asked to reopen the draft, and we had our own proposal for modification."

Diplomats say the proposed monitoring group will consist mainly of military officers from the five countries, with the chairmanship rotating between the United States and France. It will be based in the South Lebanese border town of Naqoura.

But Syrian Ambassador Walid Al Muallem said there were still differences over a proposal for Israel to delay 72 hours before retaliating against any Hizbollah attack on a civilian target, to allow the group to investigate.



ELECTION TRAIL: Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres waves to bedouin supporters as he stands next to Sheikh Ibrahim Al Amor, one of the leading notables among the bedouin community, following an election speech on Tuesday in a town in the desert. Several thousand bedouins turned to support Mr. Peres. The made-up hats are printed in Arabic with the slogan "Peres Builder of Peace and Equality." (Reuters photo)

U.S. says Tehran behind W.Bank killing

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said on Tuesday there was growing evidence that Iran was using "terrorism" to undermine the Middle East peace process.

He accused an Iranian-backed group of a shooting in Israel last week that killed an Israeli-American student.

"The evidence has grown in recent months. In advance of Israel's elections, Iranian-trained terrorists have been sent to infiltrate Israel and the Palestinian territories. Some have been intercepted. Others narrowly failed in carrying out their deadly activities. Still others have succeeded in their murderous missions," Mr. Christopher said in a speech to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"We believe that an Iranian-backed group was responsible for last week's drive-by shooting of an Israeli-American Yeshiva student in the West Bank," Mr. Christopher said.

"There should no longer be any debate about Iran's involvement in terrorism against the peace process," he said.

He said that while the United States and its European allies — long at odds over this issue — "now share a similar analysis of the facts, we differ when it comes to how best to deal with Iran." The Europeans engage in what he called a "critical dialogue" with Tehran while carrying on normal trade.

"The Europeans themselves acknowledge that this policy has produced no significant change in Iran's attitude," Mr. Christopher said.

He asserted that Tehran gives millions of dollars each year to both Islamic Jihad and Hamas and bankrolls the Lebanese Hizbollah with up to \$100 million annually.

Mr. Christopher, referring to a recent address here by his German counterpart, Klaus Kinkel, said the United States and its European allies shared the same assessment of the Iranian regime.

But "we differ on how best to deal with Iran," he added. "No amount of dialogue will alter Iran's policy."

In his recent speech before a U.S. Jewish group, Mr. Kinkel stressed Bonn's view that it was better to maintain a dialogue with Iran than to sever all links, introduce sanctions and risk radicalising the country through isolation.

Opposition

(Continued from page 12)

"If the issues of refugees and the displaced were negotiated within the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, Israel could claim it has no responsibility towards these people on the basis that they actually live in their country," he maintained.

In a five-page statement, the opposition coalition also called on the government to reconsider its "pro-American" positions and "go back to the Arab fold."

"We urge policymakers of our country to abandon their stands for the sake of the Jordanian people and make a serious step towards developing cooperation and understanding with Iraq and Iran," the statement said.

JPA assails Muasher over draft law; minister rejects assertions

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Information Marwan Muasher on Tuesday brushed aside complaints by the Jordan Press Association (JPA) that he was marginalising the role of the JPA and stepping over its historic rights. But he said he did not want to start a war of words with the JPA.

Branding the minister's attitude as hostile and inexplicable, the association's executive council issued a statement calling on Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti to intervene and solve the dispute.

The association said the minister was constantly making statements "meant" to marginalise the association's role. It said the minister was planning to introduce a new JPA law to be discussed by the Lower House of Parliament in its extraordinary session this summer without prior consultation with the association. The association said it tried to meet with the minister to discuss the law but he refused.

The minister said this was not true.

The association said it extended invitations to the minister to meet with him but they were turned down. "This attitude is in contradiction with the government's declared stand towards the press and its slogans of transparency and of raising the ceiling of freedom and responsibility," the association's statement said.

"The association, and view of the minister's aggressive attitude towards the association and his insistence to deal with the JPA council as illegitimate, regards this position as incomprehensible and in contradiction with his Majesty King Hussein's call to organise the profession and draw a press code of honour that protects journalists and their role in spreading the truth," the statement said.

"The council calls on the minister for an immediate meeting to discuss the new law. Otherwise, the council considers itself obliged to discuss the appropriate legal procedures that guarantee its role properly. It also hopes that the prime minister would intervene to put things back on track," it added.

The minister dismissed the charges and said: "I don't want to start a fight. I've done everything I can to come up with a modern law. It is up to the press corps and the House to decide on the changes."

The current JPA law dates back to 1983. The JPA introduced several amendments to the law in 1989 and presented them to the House in 1990. However, the House's law committee started discussions of the law only this year.

JPA President Suleiman Qudus admitted that those 1990 amendments were outdated and said the association worked on new amendments and presented them to the law committee two months ago.

Meanwhile, the minister of information, a former journalist himself, has announced plans for major changes in the field of information including press related laws, the JPA law in particular.

Dr. Muasher forwarded to the legislation office at the prime ministry the outline of a new draft JPA. According

to the draft, all prerequisites for JPA membership will be cancelled and the quota system in the JPA board will be abolished.

These changes and the minister's initiative to introduce a new law instead of discussing amendments to the amendments stirred the controversy. Some believe that the journalism profession should always be protected from "intruders." The association, one of the board members said, might not have carried out its duty in full in terms of protecting journalists and upgrading the standard of the profession, but its membership should remain voluntary to empower it.

However, a large number of journalists in Jordan are not JPA members. The government and the JPA are aware of this situation, but chose not to take action against them in the past. These journalists could not possibly become JPA members, though some of them might be in the profession for decades, because they do not meet the association's conditions for membership.

Freelancers, correspondents of news agencies and publications who have not worked in Jordanian publications and journalists working for political party newspapers could not be considered for membership.

Publishers and managers in any publications are automatically considered JPA members even if they have never practised the profession.

The JPA law also allocates three seats for publishers in the 10-member board. The

minister of information has said that these three obstacles will be removed by the new law.

The JPA board, however, believes that whatever the changes are, the minister should have consulted with the board and agreed on a new law.

"It has never happened in the history of journalism that a law is passed without consultation with the association," he said. "We have not even seen the law."

The minister has repeatedly said he was planning to introduce a new draft. The features of the draft law were made known to the public and to journalists. In his Monday's press briefings, the minister has explained his policies towards information and the changes he intends to introduce to the JPA law. But the association is obviously disgruntled with the minister's moves towards changing the law without its knowledge but did not reveal its discontent until Tuesday.

An analyst who preferred not to be named said the issue would be solved "by sitting down and discussing it."

"Both of them are legitimate bodies and they should be able" to work things together.

In the analyst's view, the government has succeeded in easing pressures, especially when it comes to issues concerning public and press freedoms, but pointed out that if changes were to be made they should be made immediately without procrastination since "there is always opposition to new ideas."

King receives British award

(Continued from page 1)

seriously to establish a just and lasting peace — "peace between the peoples rather than between persons or governments."

The King said he was touched and moved by the distinguished award. "I am most deeply moved and touched by the award I received tonight which I shall always treasure, but, more than that, by the thoughtfulness of our friends in helping us deal with one of the most formidable challenges in our region — water and water research. Technically has been a vehicle of learning in our region. We are aware of its great achievements and contributions and I hope and pray that before long I will have the privilege of visiting with our friends to see for myself and to learn more of what they have achieved and to discuss the programme in progress regarding our joint effort to work together, to research and find ways and means by which we can preserve water (and which) we can use to the best of our abilities and tap and discover new sources of water for our peoples, for our lands, for our industries, for the future we seek for our people in peace."

"Our region is still troubled. We are still short of the comprehensive peace, but we have every hope and confidence that Jordan and Israel can be an example of peace not attached to a thermometer or a barometre in terms of cold and hot, fair or stormy. Peace is peace which lives in the hearts of people and in their minds and souls. I am very touched and moved by the fact that it seems to me that, at a moment approaching the Israeli elections in Israel from both the major parties, out of friendship, seem to try to place me in a position of being on this side or that side. I believe that peace is the demand of one and all, certainly the overwhelming majority in Israel, regardless of their political affiliations. We believe that this is a dynamic of a soul that we are moving ahead. We believe in a bright future for all our peoples."

The King received congratulations over being the recipient of the award from Queen Elizabeth of Britain, and British Prime Minister John Major, who said that few world leaders did what the King had done for enhancing mutual cooperation and advancing better understanding in the Middle East.

Also congratulating the King were former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who praised a joint water research project, which will be named after Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor. The project will be carried out jointly by Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority and Israel.

The paper quoted the Israeli ambassador to Jordan, Shimon Shamir, as saying that during the meeting "there was a consensus among all those involved on the need to sit down and solve all the problems."

According to the Post, Israeli officials hope that the resumption of high-level talks will reduce negative public opinion in Jordan against Israel. Foreign Minister Barak was "expected to brief King Hussein on political developments in dealing with the Palestinians and Lebanon in the aftermath" of the Israeli blitz in Lebanon, it said.

The Jerusalem Post reported: Apart from the initiation of the dialogue itself, there are specific issues Jordan would like discussed, officials say.

First, Jordan would like to clarify, and hopefully increase, its export quotas to the West Bank. Jordan says there are contradictions between the low levels of Jordanian exports to the territories agreed on between Israel and the Palestinians in May 1994, and the Jordanian exports permitted to the territories under the Israel-Jordan peace treaty.

The Post said the London meeting "follows Prime Minister Shimon Peres' consultations with top aides Sunday night in a bid to explore ways to ease the current difficulties in the bilateral ties."

Kabariti, World Bank official exchange views

(Continued from page 1)

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Tuesday reviewed with the director of the World Bank's Middle East and North Africa department, Under-Secretary, the economic situation in Jordan and Jordan's economic achievements, including the stability of prices and the increase in exports by eight per cent this year. Mr. Kabariti also discussed with the World Bank official the possibility of supporting projects benefiting the underprivileged people, including the small projects programme.

Views exchanged with Saudi official

Also on Tuesday, Mr. Kabariti reviewed with Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, the second deputy prime minister and Saudi Minister of Defence and Aviation, bilateral relations in the various fields. In a telephone conversation, they also discussed regional and international developments of mutual concern.

Omani message received

The prime minister also received a message from Omani Deputy Prime Minister Fikr Ben Mahmoud Al Said dealing with bilateral relations. The message was delivered to Mr. Kabariti by Omani Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Sultan Al Boursai'di during a meeting at the Prime Ministry.

Mr. Kabariti also called at the army headquarters where he met for a while with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai and congratulated him on his promotion to the rank of field marshal.

The prime minister also sent a cable of condolences to his Syrian counterpart Mahmoud Al Zu'bi, expressing condolences and those of the Jordanian government over the death of the Syrian minister of awqaf.

32 suspects

(Continued from page 1)

was en route to Israel and questioned them.

Israeli reports said the Palestinians had been arrested in Turkey for allegedly planning an attack in Israel. However, Turkish officials said the passports the men were carrying turned out to be genuine and that there was no reason to detain them further.

Groups protest activist's arrest

(Continued from page 12)

Council, wrote a column published in Tuesday's edition of Al Hayat Al Jadid newspaper that he believed Dr. Sarraj had erred in comparing the situation under Palestinian

self-rule to the nearly 30 years of Israeli occupation that preceded it.

But Mr. Amr said there was no justification for arresting Dr. Sarraj.

Study assails Security Council

(Continued from page 12)

sanctions, has been "critical in preventing famine."

The report shares the positive judgement on the Iraqi rationing system expressed by other organisations' reports, including a 1995 document prepared by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

According to the CESR report, the success of the rationing system is due to the high level of political commitment on the part of the government, able to ensure that people have access to the basic bundle of staple commodities, and to the fact that the rationing system is structured around a "judicious mix of public and private sector, with good mechanism for monitoring and cross-checks," including a computerised list of all beneficiaries.

The oil-for-food deal reached on Monday by Iraq and the U.N., Mr. Hamid said, "is definitely a positive change," though, "in figures, it will only provide for less

than 20 per cent of the minimum needs of Iraq."

According to the 1995 FAO report, Iraq needs \$2.7 billion worth of food every year while the oil-for-food deal will allow Iraq to buy \$2 billion in food, medicine, spare parts, instruments for surgery and supplies for hospitals. "It is a positive input, but not the solution," Mr. Hamid said.

"At the political level, the oil-for-food deal with consolidates the regime, eases the political pressure from within and alleviates tension," he said.

"There will also be an impact at the international level."

"Iraq will be back into the economic game: French, Germans and European companies in general were already very much interested in having a bigger role to play within this oil-for-food deal," and they will now be able to enter, though partially, the Iraqi market as suppliers, Mr. Hamid said.

Baghdad hails oil accord

(Continued from page 1)

Hussein from diverting the proceeds for illegitimate use," U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said.

In remarks to the United Nations Association of the United States, Ms. Albright said the oil-for-food deal did not mean the end of sanctions on Iraq.

"The U.N.-controlled deal "allows us to address a humanitarian tragedy, albeit one manufactured by an especially cruel dictator, and make sure that a particularly dangerous regime cannot wriggle out of its international obligations and once again pose a threat to the region and American troops," Ms. Albright said.

Her remarks came as the U.N. Sanctions Committee met to work out details of the oil-for-food deal.

Mr. Corell, the chief negotiator for the U.N., told reporters he had presented the "rather complex document" to the committee.

"I have done my task ... they now have to do their part of the job," Mr. Corell said.

The panel, made up representatives of the 15 Security Council members, must approve each sale of Iraqi crude oil under the memorandum of understanding signed Monday.

Diplomats said Mr. Corell explained the procedure for the complex deal allowing the resumption of Iraqi oil exports under the embargo, which officially remains in place.

Western leaders hailed the deal, but the Gulf Arab states remained tight-lipped over the accord.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Abdul Mohsen Al Medaj brushed aside the accord, saying it would not effect oil prices and the market would be able to "soak up" the Iraqi crude.

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guarantee under a stipulation that the government would receive 20 per cent of all gross revenues of the company in five years or JD 28 million, whichever is higher.

The company will have exclusivity for mobile phone services in Jordan for the first four years and will transfer all equipment and operations to the Jordanian government after a period of 16 years.

The company launched the first phase of its operations in September and says it expects to complete the second phase of the project way ahead of the deadline stipulated in the licensing agreement.

According to businessmen, the company is doing well,

having already met in less than one year three quarters of its target of 20,000 subscribers in two years.

"It looks as if the government would collect more than the minimum revenues stipulated in the licensing agreement if the company keeps up its present level of business," said a senior executive from another firm which had also sought the tender.

The telecommunication authorities have invited other companies interested in starting mobile phone services in Jordan. Their operations will begin after the first four years of exclusivity given to the Jordan Mobile Telephone Services Company.

Higher Court dismisses case

(Continued from page 12)

OPEC is reluctant to make room for Iraqi oil output — experts

PARIS (AFP) — Oil producers in OPEC are likely to show great reluctance to make room for Iraq in their production plan when they meet in Vienna on June 3, European experts said Tuesday, the day after an agreement enabling Iraq to resume exporting.

Other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), benefiting from high prices now, might wait until prices fell and a crisis arose, the experts said.

Since August 1990, when the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq caused the United Nations to place an embargo on exports of Iraqi oil, OPEC countries have increased their output sharply to compensate for the banned oil.

At the time Iraq had an OPEC production quota of 3.14 million barrels per day.

Saudi Arabia, which then had a quota of 5.4 million barrels a day, now has a quota of eight million barrels per day.

Under an agreement signed in New York

Monday, Iraq is to be permitted to export oil worth \$2 billion during a period of two months. This is equivalent to about 700,000 barrels per day at current prices.

This agreement, which may be renewed, is intended to permit Iraq to buy food and medicine for its population.

OPEC has set itself an overall production ceiling of 24.5 million barrels per day but many members are exceeding their quotas and the total being produced is about 26 million barrels per day.

At Kleinwort Benson in London, analyst Mehdi Varzi said: "If OPEC is not ready to reduce its production to make way for Iraq, it might be turning out nearly 27 million barrels per day by September. I do not believe that the market can absorb the additional production from Iraq without a fall of prices."

World demand for oil was very strong because the world economy was recovering and because the northern hemisphere had been

through a particularly hard winter, he said. "But production by non-OPEC countries is increasing constantly...it is therefore for OPEC to control output."

Negotiations were likely to be tough if the organisation wanted to restrain output to 26 million barrels per day.

Mr. Varzi said that there was a danger that "OPEC will do nothing" because prices were relatively high.

The price of Brent quality oil in London is about \$18 dollars per barrel.

"OPEC usually reacts when it is under pressure," he said.

At the magazine Petrostrategies in Paris, Pierre Terzian said: "OPEC will not act until prices fall to less than \$15 or even \$14 per barrel."

Most OPEC countries had prepared their budgets on the basis that the price of oil would be \$15-\$16 per barrel, and this left room for prices to fall, he said.

An economist at the Centre for Global Energy Studies, Julian Lee, said: "OPEC is not very clever at

preventing crises from arising and prefers to solve them once they have occurred. Experience shows this."

He added: "Saudi Arabia will not want to reduce its output while Venezuela exceeds its quota by such a big amount. This is where the main problem lies."

Venezuela, which has a quota of 2.3 million barrels per day, exceeded this amount by 600,000 barrels in April, the International Energy Agency has reported.

An analyst with a European oil company said that Venezuela might propose that each member of OPEC reduce its output by two or three per cent.

But Iran would probably argue that those who had benefited most from the absence of Iraqi oil, meaning Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, should bear any cuts alone.

But Saudi Arabia would argue that each country should respect its quota, he said.

Iraqis weigh pros and cons of oil deal with U.N.

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqis Tuesday welcomed their government's food-for-oil deal with the United Nations but the euphoria which had greeted the news was replaced by uncertainty about what the partial oil sales may bring.

The celebratory gunfire which echoed through Baghdad when news of the agreement was broadcast late Monday, had fallen still. And traders and buyers started weighing pros and cons of the deal under which Iraq can export oil worth \$2 billion in six months to buy desperately needed food and medicines.

Although officials have said a month is likely to elapse before the first oil flows to world markets in nearly six years of U.N. sanctions, shoppers Tuesday crammed popular markets in the city. But for many it was a trip to explore and not to buy.

Traders in Jamila, Iraq's main foodstuff centre, sold their wares at prices below those prior to the deal. But they were not as low as what many shoppers, such as Um Farima, had expected.

"I thought once there is an agreement, prices would crash again as they did early in the year," she said.

Iraq's currency soared when Baghdad agreed to enter talks with the U.N. in January on partial oil sales. The dinar surged to about 750 to the U.S. dollar, from 3,000 late in 1995.

When the deal was signed Monday, the dinar jumped to 450 from about 800. On Tuesday, the currency had slumped again to more than 650 dinars to the dollar, lowered by strong buying of the U.S. currency.

Baghdad traders who closely follow news on the U.N. trade embargo, imposed on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, said it would take time until shipments of food arrived in Iraq.

Iraqis openly discussed terms of the deal and in Shourja, Baghdad's commercial hub, traders freely calculated what would remain for Iraq of the \$2 billion revenue its oil should generate over the six months.

"It is about 35 cents per day for each of us," said one

trader. "It's almost \$10 a month. That will hardly be enough for food."

Before the sanctions, Iraq's per capita income of \$3,000 a year was among the highest in the Third World.

Under the terms of the U.N.-Iraqi deal, of each \$1 billion \$300 million will go to the U.N. Gulf war reparations fund and another \$20 million to \$50 million to other U.N. costs.

Iraq will also have to pay costs of U.N. food distribution monitors, oil experts supervising the sales and staff running the U.N.'s escrow fund.

"It could enable us to have more food to eat. Fill in shelves of our pharmacies. Otherwise I cannot see any more benefits," said an Iraqi economist who refused to be named.

Asia Kareem Suwei, aged 50, a housewife and mother of four, disagreed: "This will help us live in prosperity. It is indeed good news."

For Fatima Zeidan, 62, with a monthly salary of 70 dinars, less than \$1, the deal means a lot. "Things are getting cheap, of course we are going to eat and drink."

One kilogramme of rice was selling for about 300 dinars on Tuesday, far lower than for much of the uncertainty of the talks. But Fatima could still not afford to buy, and hoped that the fall would continue.

On Monday when news of the deal reached Baghdad, vendors starting offering foodstuffs at a third of the price they had been marked. Prices for eggs, sugar, tea and cooking oils all went on the decline.



Muammar Qadhafi

Qadhafi says GATT free trade is Satanic

TUNIS (R)—Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has attacked the consumer society and "Satanic" rules promoted by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which "flood" the world with tasteless products.

In an address to an economic forum reported by the official Libyan news agency JANA, Colonel Qadhafi described capitalist firms as "Dracula" and harshly criticised cosmetics and fashion models and the uselessness of making different types of toothbrush.

"What permits exploitative firms to go ahead with tasteless manufacturing, to invade the world...is the establishment of free trade agreements which aim at

flooding the world's countries and markets with insipid products," Colonel Qadhafi told economists in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi.

"They work day and night to establish the so-called GATT and NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement)..." he said. "Owners of big industrial, exploitative firms are the criminals. They are the enemies of humanity," he added.

The Libyan leader said that the development of services and "tasteless" industries in the world economy and the decreasing number of people working in production in the agricultural sector are the main causes of

inflation.

Colonel Qadhafi had the following to say about —

Cosmetics: "The manufacturer of cosmetics...is sucking the blood of humans. He is a Dracula."

Toothbrushes: "Toothbrushing is necessary...but it is a masquerade, a dangerous deviation to create a million types of brushes."

Perfumes: "World markets and particularly Third World markets are flooded with these insipid products...the manufacturer is a criminal."

Models: "There is an army of models, particularly in Europe...models say they are working for promotion of fashion firms...this work

is increasing inflation. It is not production for us."

Photographers and painters: "...These are useless services."

Ashtays: "What is the utility for millions of people in Africa, Asia and all the continents of a plant which manufactures expensive ashtays?"

Shampoos: "Eggs are needed by millions of humans yet the capitalist exploiting firms, the Dracula, transform them into shampoo...cocoa and pineapple too...and they say this is

the best shampoo or body soap. This is a Satanic capitalist culture."

Pencils: "Why does having several colours in a pen make it more expensive? Why don't we have only one color?"

Toys: "What is the use of a toy factory in a country where children die of anaemia?"

Newspapers: "...We are now colonised by this (consumption) view through these insipid publications talking about the Satanic products."

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

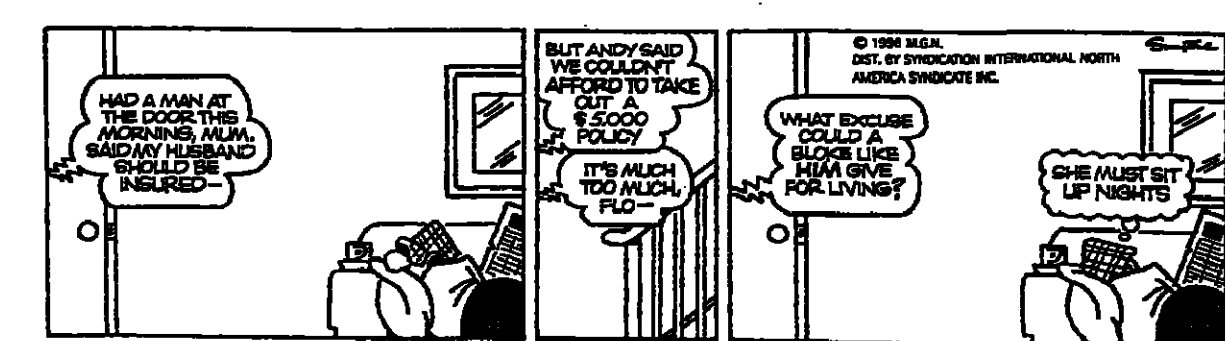


"It's getting worse. Today they cut my salary in half and doubled the size of my coffee cup!"

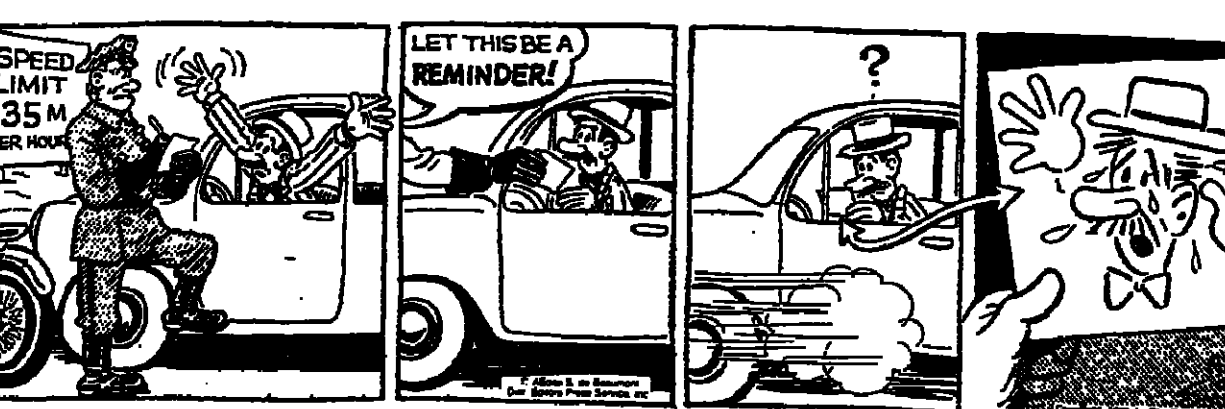
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n Jeff



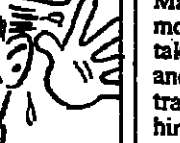
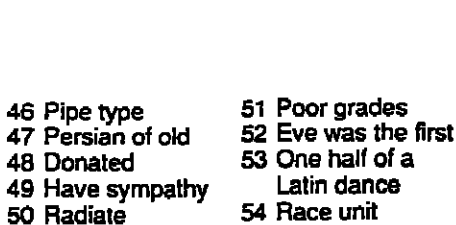
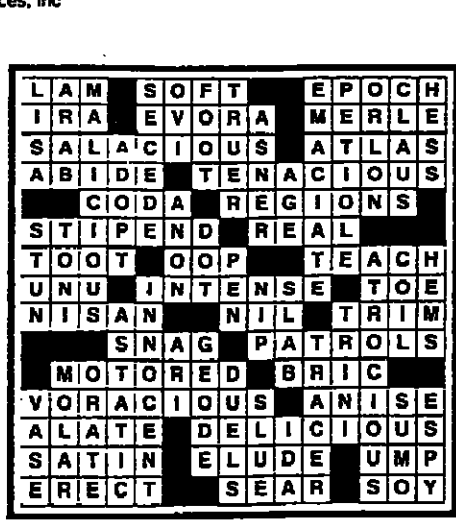
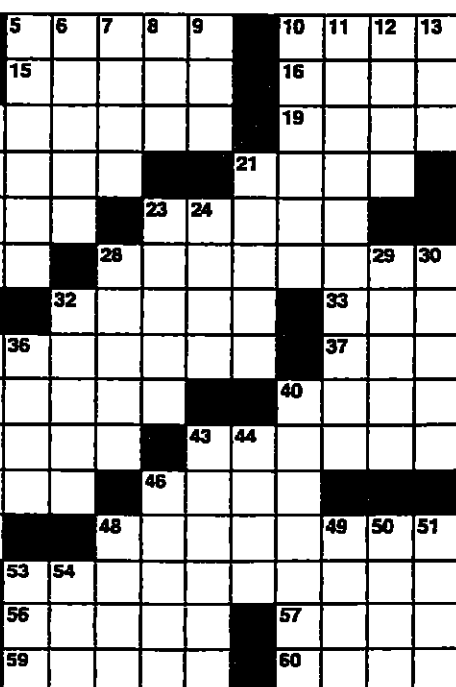
THE Daily Crossword by Jay Sullivan

ACROSS

- 1 Mother of Castor and Pollux
- 5 Waitress wear
- 10 Hard to catch
- 14 Nerve cell extension
- 15 South American plain
- 16 Iris part
- 17 Michael Jordan?
- 19 Harsh sound
- 20 Feelings
- 21 Eliot's Adam
- 22 Threw
- 23 Chap
- 25 Overrefined
- 28 Available for rent
- 31 Swine
- 32 Spinet
- 33 Schisgal play
- 34 Freddy
- 35 Wolf in sheep's clothing?
- 37 Chances — (probably)
- 38 — Grande
- 39 Carried
- 40 Barbara of TV
- 41 Travelers
- 43 Repairmen
- 45 Briny
- 46 Lethargic
- 47 Intricate network
- 48 Made a face
- 52 Short note
- 53 'less up
- 55 Something in the air
- 56 Wealthy ones
- 57 Border lake
- 58 Dogface dinner
- 59 Monkey business?
- 60 Defeats, in bridge

DOWN

- 1 Metallic material
- 2 Check up
- 3 Karate school
- 4 Someone else
- 5 Recess
- 6 Flat surface
- 7 Joplin works
- 8 Quarter of four
- 9 And not
- 10 Word of triumph
- 11 Advice to a swordsman?
- 12 — majeste
- 13 Bark sharply
- 18 Mob scene
- 21 Kind of buddy
- 23 Goatee
- 24 Turner of Hollywood
- 25 Movie maven
- 26 Ledger page
- 27 Cookie man
- 28 Citrus fruit
- 29 Seductress
- 30 Smooths
- 32 Small pie
- 35 Steps over a fence
- 36 Party giver
- 40 Breathes out
- 42 Shavers
- 43 Superficial
- 44 Shakespeare's foot



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1996

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be with fellow associates and reach a better accord with them at this time. Some dramatic later this event could bring about greater respect and admiration from a authority figure who make your life more prosperous.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get together with a fellow associate and make your career activities more valuable and profitable. Do some favour for this individual and the rewards will be beyond your expectation, which will bring you much success.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Show your mate that you are truly devoted today, and you can increase happiness together, later this evening join with close friends for some fun out on the town, however you should not stay out too late.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take time today to add more charm and beauty to your home and make it a happier place for you and your loved ones to be in. Later tonight take some time to spend with your loved ones in some fun activities enjoyed by all.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be with usual allies today and show you appreciate them and want to spend more time with them. Enjoy your loved ones and close relative involved in some activities, which everyone in your home will want to participate in.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Today is the time to make the improvements to your home for which you have had little time lately. Later this evening you can provide some of your valuable time to the attention of your loved ones, which will be appreciated.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get into the activities you most prefer since you are highly magnetic today and you can get others to do what you like. This evening is a good time for you to become involved in some new project which will gain you prestige.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are very fond of investigating at this time and you can solve some riddle which others around you would find difficult to do. You will be able to tonight to discover the solution to some perplexing situation.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be with close friends who champion your own views and wit today and you can have a fine time together on some career activities which you have been involved in for some time and need to be concluded.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Do whatever will gain you more prestige with bigwigs and the public in general today. This evening will provide you with the opportunity to meet with fellow associates concerning some important task which is being evaluated.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have many fine ideas today and you hardly know which one to put in operation, however choose the best and start there. By later this evening you will be able to provide some authority figure with preliminary ideas.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your mate is in a most affectionate mood, so take advantage of this today and be happier, with the extra attention expressed by him or her. Later tonight you can spend some quality time with your loved ones in fun activities.

Birthstone of May: Emerald — Citrine

Juve arrives in Rome; Vialli expects 'chess match'

ROME (AP) — Pre-match posturing ahead of the Champions Cup final began Monday as Juventus of Turin coach Marcello Lippi confirmed his club's practices this week will be closed.

Juventus arrived at Rome's Leonardo Da Vinci Airport Monday morning, greeted by dozens of fans wearing club scarves and hats. Ajax arrived in the Italian capital later in the day.

The teams play at Olympic stadium Wednesday night, with Ajax aiming for its second straight Champions Cup title and fifth overall. Juve wants to add to its 1985 triumph.

The Dutch will hold at least one open practice, but Lippi's squad will train behind closed doors, to avoid what the coach termed "too much pressure."

He praised his opponent, whose games Juventus has analyzed with the help of hours of videotape.

"Ajax is a formidable group. Their overall strength worries me," Lippi said at a news conference at the airport.

He reserved particular praise for the Dutch side's tremendous ball-control.

"Patience is Ajax's top virtue," Lippi said. "The team maintains continuous possession until there's an opening. Chasing the ball for 90 minutes is not easy" for its opponents.

Both rosters are talented with internationals at position. In fact, Juventus will have winger Angelo Di Livio — named last week to Italy's side for June's European Championships — on the substitutes' bench, in favor of Portuguese playmaker Paulo Sousa.

With so much skill on the field, strategy will be a determining factor.

"This will be like a chess match," said Gianluca Vialli, Juve's captain and most important player of late. "We hope to take them out of their plan a bit."

Ajax captain Danny Blind



Brazilian Ajax Amsterdam soccer player Marcio Roberto Dos Santos gives a thumbs up while wearing an Ajax cap after arriving at Rome's Ciampino Airport, May 20. Ajax will play Juventus from Italy in the Champions League final Wednesday, May 22 (Reuters photo)

Record 15,000 Ajax fans fly to final

AMSTERDAM (R) — A record 15,000 Ajax fans have booked flights to Rome to support the Amsterdam team in Wednesday's European Cup final against Juventus.

A spokesman at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport said 60 extra flights had been scheduled, most of which would leave on the day of the match.

"Never before have so many football fans departed from Schiphol to attend a match," he said.

Despite their numbers — 6,000 more than attended the 1995 European Cup final in Vienna when Ajax beat AC Milan 1-0 — the Dutch crowd will appear tiny compared with the Juventus supporters.

Italian fans are expected to occupy three-quarters of the 80,000 seats in Rome's Olympic stadium.

is the player to watch, according to Vialli. "He's fundamental to them, with his charisma and tactics," the former Italian international said. "He's the last line of defense and the first to go on attack."

Vialli will start in Juve's

French internationals leaving Bordeaux

BORDEAUX (R) — French internationals Zinedine Zidane, Christophe Dugarry and Bixente Lizarazu said Tuesday they were leaving UEFA Cup finalists Bordeaux.

"We made them interesting offers but we could not match their demands. We wanted to keep them but they didn't want to stay," Bordeaux President Alain Afflelou said.

Dutch midfielder Richard Witschge has already said he will leave Bordeaux, who were beaten by Bayern Munich in the UEFA Cup final earlier this month, to return to European champions Ajax Amsterdam, the club with whom he started his career.

Gifted playmaker Zidane said he was given the go-ahead to leave the club and added he was negotiating with Juventus, who face Ajax in the European Cup final in Rome on Wednesday.

Dugarry said he would announce the name of his new club before the end of the week. He has been approached by Italian clubs Napoli, Internazionale and Juventus and English Premier League Blackburn Rovers and Arsenal.

Lizarazu is likely to sign for Spain's Athletic Bilbao.

Zidane, Dugarry and Lizarazu are all in the French squad for next month's European Championship finals in England.

Lazaroni to coach Turkey's Fenerbahce

ISTANBUL (R) — Brazil's 1990 World Cup coach Sebastiao Lazaroni will take charge of Turkey's Fenerbahce later this month, replacing compatriot Carlos Alberto Pereira.

Senior club official Sadan Kalkanvan, quoted on the state-run Anatolian news agency on Monday, said Lazaroni would sign for the Turkish league champions on May 27. He gave no further details of the signing.

Sonics take 2-0 lead

SEATTLE (R) — Shawn Kemp, plagued by foul trouble the entire game, scored 15 points, including a pair of baskets in the final 73 seconds that lifted the Seattle SuperSonics to a 91-87 victory over the Utah Jazz and a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference finals on Monday.

Kemp picked up four fouls in the first half and began the third quarter on the bench. He got his fifth foul in the third quarter, when the Jazz erased a seven-point deficit and opened an eight-point lead. But he returned in the fourth quarter to score eight points.

Kemp scored inside to give the SuperSonics an 87-85 lead with 1:13 to go. Utah's Antoine Carr tied the game with 56 seconds remaining, but Kemp responded with another strong inside move to give Seattle the lead for good with 37 seconds to go.

The Sonics forced a bad pass by Utah point guard John Stockton. Seattle's Detlef Schrempf missed a corner jumper, but a battle for the loose ball saw it go out of bounds off Jazz guard Jeff Hornacek with 2.4 seconds left. Schrempf hit two free throws to seal the win.

Gary Payton scored 18 points and Schrempf added 17 for Seattle, which has won eight straight playoff games and is two victories away from its first trip to the NBA finals in 17 years.

Karl Malone 32 points and Horace Grant added 22 for the Jazz, who lost the opener by 30 points and have never won on the road in the western conference finals.

The series shifts to Utah for games three and four on Friday and Sunday. Seattle has won four of its last 10 games at Utah and is unbeaten on the road (4-0) in the playoffs. The Jazz are 6-0



Utah Jazz guard John Stockton (L) runs into the chest of Seattle SuperSonics forward Sam Perkins during the second quarter of Game 2 (Reuters photo)

at home in the post-season.

Malone scored 18 points in the third quarter as Utah opened a 73-65 lead entering the final period. But the Jazz managed just one basket over the next 6:16 and the Sonics regained the lead.

Kemp scored four points

and Payton and Vincent Askew added three apiece in a 12-3 run. Two foul shots by Kemp gave Seattle a 77-76 lead midway through the period.

The Jazz were unable to

take advantage of Kemp's

foul trouble until he departed with his fifth foul with 4:27 left in the third quarter and the Sonics holding a 61-60 lead. The Jazz closed the period with a 13-4 run, including six by Malone.

Magic hoping to rebound in Game 2 against Bulls

CHICAGO (AP) — The Orlando Magic were beaten by 38, out rebounded by 34 and overwhelmed at every turn by the Chicago Bulls in the opener of the Eastern Conference finals.

"We were embarrassed," Magic coach Brian Hill said.

Now Orlando's assignment for Game 2 becomes even tougher: regroup, invigorate Nick Anderson and Dennis Scott and somehow, some way find a way to win and rebound without Horace Grant.

"Horace is like the backbone of this team, he's the rebounding guy and the emotional leader," Magic guard Penny Hardaway said Monday. "If he can't play it's going to hurt us. But it's self-explanatory, guys know they have to step up tomorrow."

Grant hyperextended his left elbow in the third quarter Sunday, when he collided with teammate Shaquille O'Neal, and had to be helped off the floor. An MRI taken Monday revealed no fracture but Hill ruled out Grant for Tuesday night.

"He's definitely out for tomorrow's game and could be out for an extended period of time," Hill said.

Grant, whose double-figure rebounding and scoring led the Magic past the Bulls in last year's playoffs, missed 19 games during the regular season with injuries, illness and a one-game suspension. The Magic were 10-9 in those games.

"We weren't as good rebounding and we suffered defensively, especially against teams with big strong power

forwards because we really don't have another big powerful guy off the bench after Horace," Hill said.

"That's something we have to try to overcome tomorrow."

Unknown to most of the Magic was that Grant's right elbow was hurting even before Sunday's game. He injured it in the second-round series against Atlanta, possibly in Game 5.

"He had a collision where he did grab for his arm but he seemed to be fine over the next few days," trainer Lenny Currier said. "Horace is the only one who knew how it felt. If it was sore maybe he wanted to keep a little more of that to himself rather than send up a flare," Currier said.

"All the pain right now is in his left elbow. Maybe that

will make his right elbow feel a lot better — because the left hurts so much."

Hill wouldn't say Monday whether he would start in Grant's place. He might go to a bigger lineup with Jon Koncak or try a smaller one with Donald Royal or Joe Wolf.

The Magic have to get Anderson and Scott involved and find a way to keep Dennis Rodman, who had 21 rebounds Sunday, off the boards. Chicago had a 62-28 rebounding edge, almost unheard of in professional basketball.

Anderson had two points in Sunday's 121-83 loss while Scott and Grant were scoreless and the trio combined for eight rebounds. Hardaway scored 38 and O'Neal had 27 in what turned into a two-man offense.

Police fret about chinks in anti-hooligan armour

LONDON (R) — England's police may have spent a full two years preparing to crush possible outbreaks of hooliganism at next month's European Soccer Championship but they are still fretting about the chinks in their armour.

The police, all too aware of English fans' lamentable reputation for provoking mayhem, have amassed a vast array of technology enabling them to identify and isolate hooligans.

But they complain that although they will be able to single out troublemakers at Euro 96 with almost unerring accuracy, the law will sometimes prevent them from taking effective action.

Assistant Chief Constable Malcolm George, the man in overall charge of coordinating the police effort during the 31-match June 8-30 tournament, says he is envious of the wide-ranging powers enjoyed by colleagues in other countries.

"In Norway, the author-

ities can refuse entry to anyone who has been convicted in the last five years of a crime which carries more than three-month prison sentence. I wish I could do that but I can't," he told reporters.

The first point of defence will nevertheless be Britain's frontiers, where police have orders to turn back known hooligans and other troublemakers.

In theory they will be hampered by data protection laws preventing police in Germany and the Netherlands — countries which also have serious hooligan problems — from handing over details of those who plan to travel. But George is not downcast.

"There are other practical means by which information can be obtained without breaching data protection rules but I don't want to say any more," he said.

If there are outbreaks of trouble, only those fans who commit the most serious

crimes will remain behind bars.

English laws, unlike those in many other European countries, do not permit the immediate expulsion of people arrested merely for being drunk or fighting.

"We can't expel them once they're here, but instead we have to go through the long-winded English deportation system. Being drunk or fighting normally wouldn't be a deportable offence," George said.

"If people are bailed, they could be out again the next day, although we can restrict their movements and conditions of release. It is a problem for us and we recognise it."

Painstaking planning was supposed to ensure that fans from opposing countries were kept well apart but this approach could be at risk after Euro 96 organisers revealed that thousands of tickets might end up in the wrong hands.

MVP Jordan wants \$36 million

CHICAGO (AFP) — Michael Jordan picked a great day to ask for a raise.

The Chicago guard won his fourth National Basketball Association (NBA) 'Most Valuable Player' award, calling it his most satisfying, the same day he went public with his salary demands — at least \$36 million for two years.

Jordan received the honour here Monday, where the Bulls face Orlando on Tuesday in game two of the Eastern Conference semi-finals. Chicago won the opener Sunday.

Jordan also captured MVP honours in 1988, 1991 and 1992 but called this year's award the best because it comes following the end of his 18-month retirement in March of 1995. It signifies Jordan is back atop the NBA.

"I think it's more meaningful, with me being out of the league for a couple of years," Jordan said. "I came back and learned a lesson. I learned that no matter how long you're away from the game, you can't come back thinking you can turn it right back on and pick up where you left off."

Jordan struggled last season after returning with little preparation. He worked out with determination during the off-season and sparked Chicago to the best record in NBA history, 72-10. "A few years ago I would never have dreamed of being in this position again," Jordan said. "This has been a dream-like year."

Jordan told a Chicago newspaper he wants a minimum of \$18 million a



Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan holds the Maurice Podoloff Trophy presented to him May 20 in Northbrook, Illinois for being voted the NBA's Most Valuable Player for the 1995-1996 season. This is the fourth time Jordan has won the trophy (Reuters photo)

year for a two-year deal.

He becomes a free agent after the playoffs.

"I want to stay here, and I feel like its 70-30 that I will, maybe 80-20," Jordan said. "But I'm prepared to go, and so is my family, if it doesn't

happen."

Jordan, 33, said he plans to wait until August before making a decision.

"To this point, I haven't discussed any contract negotiations about where I'm going to be,"

Jordan said. "That's all meaningless right now. I may, however, after the season, I don't want to be a part of a rebuilding. If that's what they want to do. Those things will be evaluated when the season is over."

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Atlanta Braves scorch Cubs 18-1

ATLANTA (R) — The red-hot Atlanta Braves with 5 RBI apiece by Chipper Jones and rookie Tyler Houston devoured the Chicago Cubs 18-1 on Monday.

Jones hit a three-run homer to cap a seven-run second inning. Houston's three-run homer in the sixth was his first in the major leagues. Fred McGriff and Jeff Blauser also homered for Atlanta.

Steve Avery allowed a run and five hits in six-plus innings and doubled in a pair of runs in the second for the Braves, who have won 13 of their last 15 games.

"That was fun out there. Tonight, everything we put out there was good," Avery said. "It was just a great game for a lot of guys."

At Florida, Craig Grebeck's run-scoring single snapped a tie in the fourth inning, and the Florida Marlins held on for a 5-3 victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

Pat Rapp (3-4) allowed three runs and five hits in 6-2/3 innings as the Marlins won for the 12th time in their last 14 games.

At Colorado, Eric Young, Ellis Burks, Larry Walker, and Andres Galaraga each drove in two runs to lead the Colorado Rockies to their season-best fifth straight win, a 10-7 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The Rockies jumped on Denny Neagle (5-2) in the first as Burks doubled with one out and scored one out



The Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Mike Piazza (31) is tangled and out at third with the New York Mets Jeff Kent in the fourth inning in Los Angeles May 20 (Reuters photo)

later on Walker's single. Walker stole second, Galaraga singled him in and, after a wild pitch, Vinny Castilla singled in Galaraga for a 3-0 lead.

Young's third homer in the second made it 4-0 and RBI singles by Young and Burks in the fourth extended the margin to 6-0.

In Houston, Donovan Osborne pitched his first complete game in nearly three years and Ray Lankford's RBI single broke a seventh-inning tie as the St. Louis Cardinals snapped a three-game losing streak by beating the Houston Astros 5-3.

Osborne (3-2), who missed all of 1994 and much of last season with shoulder and elbow injuries, tossed an eight-hitter for the Cardinals who won only the seventh time in 28 games.

In Los Angeles, Rico Brogna homered and drove in four runs and Bobby Jones won his fourth straight decision by pitching his second complete game, leading the New York Mets to a 7-1 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Brogna had run-scoring singles in the first and fifth innings and hit a two-run homer off starter Tom Candiotti (2-4) in the seventh to

give the Mets a 5-1 lead.

Mike Piazza had three hits for the Dodgers.

In San Francisco, Tom Lampkin drew a bases-loaded walk to snap a tie as the San Francisco Giants scored five runs in the eighth inning to rally past the struggling Montreal Expos, 9-6, in a matchup of the National League's two-highest scoring teams.

The Giants have won nine of their last 13 games to pull within 3 1/2 games of the Western Division-leading San Diego Padres. Montreal has lost five of their last seven games after winning 27 of their first 39 games.

7th Arab Cup Winners' Cup Faisali meet Khreibkeh today

Crown Prince congratulates Faisali on impressive results

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Faisali Wednesday met Morocco's Olympic Khreibkeh in the final match of the 7th Arab Cup Winners' Cup hosted by Al Wihdat Club May 13-22 with eight teams taking part.

Al Faisali became the first Jordanian team to qualify to the championship final after scoring a momentous 1-0 win over Al Riyad of Saudi Arabia in Monday's semifinal match. Their Moroccan opponents in the final had scored a 2-1 win over Algeria's Olympic Al Mdyah.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday sent Al Faisali a cable of congratulations on qualifying to the final match and their impressive results throughout the tournament.

The team also received a similar message from Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

Al Faisali will be going into the final match with high spirits having the home crowd advantage and the chance of becoming the first Jordanian team to win such an elite Arab soccer tournament.

While the Jordan Cup champions do not have easy



Jordan's Al Faisali

opponents they had held Khreibkeh to a 1-1 draw in their Group 2 first round encounter in which Al Faisali missed many chances to score a game-winning goal.

The other Jordanian team in the championship, hosts Al Wihdat, were knocked out of the first round after losing all their matches and ending up last in their group.

Participating teams included Al Muharraq of Bahrain, Qatar's Al Itihad, Al Mawrdh of Sudan, Al Mdyah of Algeria, Al Riyad of Saudi Arabia, Morocco's Olympic Khreibkeh in addition to Jordan's Al Faisali and Al Wihdat.

While Al Wihdat were

playing the Cup Winner's Cup for the first time, Al Faisali's participation set a championship record with their fourth appearance in the event. (Al Ramtha were the first to represent Jordan in 1993).

Jordanian results in the past four Cup Winners' Cup participations included two draws and 11 defeats in

total. Participating teams have never before won the title or even runner up position. Past champions, notably teams from Egypt and Tunisia, are missing the competition especially the championship record holders, Olympic Baidawi of Morocco, who won the title a record three consecutive times.

CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD

VENUE	CHAMPIONS
Jeddah 1990	Mala'b (Tunisia)
Dubai 1990	Olympic (Morocco)
Jeddah 1993	Olympic (Morocco)
Doha 1994	Olympic (Morocco)
Cairo 1995	Ahli (Egypt)
Tunisia 1995	Al Afriqi (Tunisia)

Boston pounds Athletics 16-4

BOSTON (R) — Jose Canseco hit a pair of two-run homers to power a season-high 21-hit attack and Tom Gordon pitched eight solid innings as the Boston Red Sox clobbered the Oakland Athletics 16-4 on Monday.

Bill Haselman four-hits for Boston, which is 10-5 in May after going 7-19 in April. Mo Vaughn added a two-run shot, his fifth in as many games. The Red Sox have 55 runs in their last five games.

"For me, I feel real good in warm weather," Canseco said. "I don't really have to do any extra type of stretching. I came out there today and said, 'wow, this is the way baseball should be played — nice and warm.' When the sun went down, it was still warm."

In Baltimore, David Wells celebrated his 33rd birthday by allowing one run over seven innings and Roberto Alomar and Bobby Bonilla homered and drove in four runs as the Baltimore Orioles decked the California Angels 13-1.

Wells allowed four hits and four walks with four strikeouts.

In Kansas City, Chris Haney allowed seven hits over 8-1/3 innings and Johnny Damon homered and drove in two runs to lead the Kansas City Royals to a 5-4 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Haney (3-4) allowed all four runs with no walks and four strikeouts.

At Minnesota, Ricky Bones allowed two runs over seven-plus innings and Chuck Carr had three hits and drove in two runs as the Milwaukee Brewers completed a four-game sweep of the Minnesota Twins with a 3-2 victory.

Bones (3-6) won for the second time in three starts, allowing just one earned run and seven hits with a walk and three strikeouts.

Minnesota has lost four straight games and 12 of 16.

MAJOR LEAGUE RESULTS

American League

Boston	16	Oakland	4
Baltimore	13	California	1
Milwaukee	3	Minnesota	2
Kansas City	5	Toronto	4

National League

Florida	5	Cincinnati	3
Atlanta	18	Chicago	1
St. Louis	5	Houston	3
Colorado	10	Pittsburgh	7
San Francisco	9	Montreal	6
New York	7	Los Angeles	1

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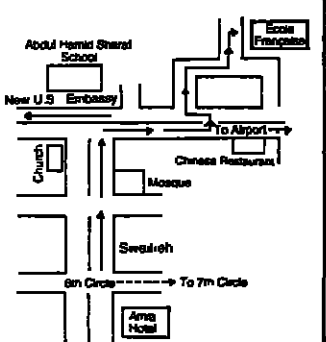
BAZAAR AT THE FRENCH SCHOOL

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For further information, please phone the French School: 826830 or 826846

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Come along with your friends for a delightful day.



Porto let Robson take Barcelona job

LISBON (R) — Porto have agreed to release former England manager Bobby Robson from his contract to let him take over as coach of Spain's Barcelona, a spokesman for the Portuguese club said on Monday.

"Robson has left the club by mutual accord," the spokesman told Reuters by telephone from Porto's headquarters in Oporto.

Earlier, Portuguese television had shown images of a

smiling Robson arriving at Porto's Antas ground for a morning meeting with directors of the club which he has just led to a second successive Portuguese championship.

The 63-year-old coach was quoted by Portuguese news agency LUSA as saying afterwards that the accord had not been difficult to reach.

"I am happy to be going to train Barcelona but very sad to leave Porto for whom I

wish much success and a third championship," he said.

Robson, who still had one year to go on his contract, will fly to Barcelona, who are reputedly paying him some 20 million pesetas (\$160,000), a month to take over from Dutchman Johan Cruyff, sacked by the Catalan club on Saturday.

Porto blocked a proposed move by Robson to England's arsenal last year but

decided this time to let him go.

Robson, who has two championships with Dutch side PSV Eindhoven to his managerial credit, told Portuguese sports daily "Record" over the weekend that the offer from Barcelona was just too good to turn down.

"These two and a half years (with Porto) have been marvellous but the (Barcelona) offer was too good to refuse," he said.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& YANNAN HERSCH
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Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
AK6 CA955 0A105 AA39
Your right-hand opponent opens one spade. What do you bid now?

A - The only possibilities are double and one no trump. With only one stopper in the enemy suit and four cards in the other major, we consider one no trump to be a distant second choice. Double.

Q. 2 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
AA1084 C75 09653 AAKEQ

The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
10 Pass 1a 20
Pass 7
What do you bid now?

A - With 13 prime high-card

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

points you want to be in game, so a mere three diamonds, which can be passed would be woefully inadequate. However, a jump to four diamonds could take you beyond your best, and possibly only, game of three no trump. The solution is to make a temporary bid of three clubs and see what partner does.

Q. 3 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
AAKE74 C1063 CA95 AAQ87

The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
Pass Pass 1a Pass
20 Pass 7

What action do you take?
A - Since partner is a passed hand, your combined assets cannot possibly stretch to game. Since you have a known eight-card fit, pass while you're still in safe territory.

Attention five-card majorities: One spade is the correct opening bid in third seat.

Q. 4 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
AK9542 C7Q1085 085 AA

The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1a Pass 20 Pass
20 Pass 3a Pass
30 Pass 3a Pass

What do you bid now?
A - Before you instinctively continue to four spades, bear in mind that partner might have only a doubleton and your suit is not robust. We would bid three no trump to let North choose the final contract. Of course, if partner has three-card support for spades, a correction to four spades would be automatic.

Q. 5 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
AS C7Q94 CA65 AAKEJ65

The bidding has proceeded:
EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH
1a Dbl Pass 3a
20 7
What do you bid now?

A - North might have a complete bust. Still, if partner has nothing but five low clubs, you should have play for game. With the ace of hearts marked outside, your only losers could be a trick in each major. Bid a sporting five clubs.

Q. 6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
A765 C7Q1085 085 AQ78

Partner opens the bidding with three no trump. What action do you take?

A - Why anyone should even think of a better contract than three no trump on this weak, balanced hand is beyond us. Hope that the two queens make the contract a sure thing. Pass.

<p>TODAY AT</p> <p>Sharon Stone & Robert Deniro..in Casino</p> <p>Shows: 12:15, 3:15, 6:00, 9:00</p>	<p>* Terminal Velocity</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>* Toy Story</p> <p>Show: 5:00</p>	<p>CONCORD "1"</p> <p>* DISCLOSURE</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15</p> <p>* ONLY YOU</p> <p>Shows: 10:30</p> <p>CONCORD "2"</p> <p>* ONLY YOU</p> <p>Shows: 5:00, 8:30</p> <p>* FAIR GAME</p> <p>Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Watch!!! the new play</p>	<p>PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights</p> <p>Starts Monday, May 13 at 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>For reservation please call 625155 - 640155</p>
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NATO will not chase Karadzic

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO will not unleash its huge force in Bosnia to hunt down Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic if the international campaign to push him out of power fails, alliance sources said on Tuesday.

They said NATO commanders considered Mr. Karadzic "not worth one single soldier's life" even though his removal from power is a key condition of the Dayton peace accords which ended the war in Bosnia.

The commanders' stand is supported by France, Britain and the United States, the main sponsors participating in NATO's peace-keeping force (FORPR).

All three are anxious to "keep any casualties to a minimum" and "avoid the moral implications of bringing Karadzic to trial," these are forgotten the moment one speaks of casualties. No one is prepared to take casualties for Karadzic. He is not worth a single life," one source said.

But critics of the commanders' attitude to Mr. Karadzic say NATO risks going down in history for its prevarication. The United Nations, which saw its credibility eroded in Bosnia after failing to enforce its mandate, said it was soft on the Serbs at the end of Dayton, said one diplomat.

Independent analysis argue

that weakness over Mr. Karadzic would make it easier for the Bosnian Serbs to realise their main aim, the rewriting of Dayton to prevent any emergence of a multi-ethnic Bosnian state.

"The only real split in the Serb camp is on methods, not on aims. Under no circumstances do they want to be under any Muslim-dominated government," said Junathan Eyal of London's royal United Services Institute.

He added that Mr. Karadzic's future was linked to the wider question of how far the West was prepared to stick to the letter of Dayton — already a cause of renewed U.S.-European tensions.

In Hague, the U.N. criminal tribunal for former Yugoslavia said it would hear evidence against Mr. Karadzic and his military chief, General Ratko Mladic, next month under its "rule 61" procedure.

Mr. Karadzic and Gen. Mladic have been indicted twice in their absence by the tribunal. They are accused of being responsible for genocide and crimes against humanity in connection with the siege of Sarajevo and the fall last year of the U.N. "safe area" at Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia.

"Rule 61 is a reminder that the accused are charged with crimes which demand a legal accounting," tribunal spokesman Christian Charter said.

Rights groups protest over activist's arrest

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

Three U.S. human rights groups — Human Rights Watch, the International Human Rights Law Group and the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Centre for Human Rights — said they had protested against the arrest.

"We are deeply concerned at the apparent pattern of arrest and detention of activists who criticise the Palestinian Authority," the U.S. rights groups said in a joint letter to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

"The purpose of these detentions appears to be to punish or intimidate those who wish to express criticism and dissent," said the letter, which was also sent to the media.

Nabil Amr, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, said the letter was "a clear violation of international law and human rights."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel to expel Syrian soldier

TEL AVIV (R) — A court in northern Israel on Tuesday ordered the expulsion of a 20-year-old Syrian soldier who had crossed into Israel to escape an unhappy life in Syria, Israeli R. said. The radio said it was not clear yet whether the soldier, from Damsia village, would be sent back to Syria or to another country. The soldier penetrated the Israel-Syrian border on May 12 before his capture by Israeli security forces, the radio said. It said he was not happy with his life, deciding to defect after his commanders decided to send him to a faraway base. The court in acre arrangements are made for his expulsion.

Assad featured in Israeli election posters

TEL AVIV (R) — Jerusalem looked a little bit like Damascus on Tuesday, and many residents did a double take after passing posters featuring Syrian President Hafez Al Assad plastered on billboards in the city centre. The posters show a charcoal sketch of Mr. Assad's head perched atop the Golan Heights and hovering over the Sea of Galilee. A question written in Hebrew asks, "Who will you vote for?"

Syria's minister of Islamic endowments dies

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria's Minister of Islamic Endowments Abdul Majid Tarabulsi has died after a long illness, officials said on Tuesday. They said that Tarabulsi died on Monday aged 70 and was to be buried on Tuesday in his hometown of Hama, 200 kilometres north of Damascus. No replacement has been announced yet for the post which Tarabulsi held since 1987.

Israeli official in Muscat to open office

MUSCAT (R) — An Israeli official who will head his country's first trade mission in a Gulf Arab state and was holding talks with Omani Foreign Ministry officials in Muscat on Tuesday, diplomats said. They said Oded Ben-Haim arrived in Muscat on Monday night at the head of an Israeli delegation preparing to open the trade office in Muscat. "It was not clear when a formal ceremony would be held. Oman and Israel agreed last year to exchange trade missions and take other steps to boost cooperation but stopped short of forging official diplomatic relations."

Israeli newspaper folds after 71 years

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Davar Rishon newspaper folded on Tuesday, 71 years after its founding, saying it was unable to attract investors who could keep it running. The daily had failed in its plans to merge with Telegraph, a daily business newspaper which closed on Monday after three years in business. The Hsiadrut trade unions federation started the newspaper as Davar, a mouthpiece for Zionism and the pre-state labour movement.



BLAST IN DELHI: Indian firefighters rummage through smouldering markets gutted after a bomb devastated the bustling area in New Delhi ON Tuesday. At least 20 people were killed and dozens injured in the blast. A militant separatist group fighting the government in the northern state of Kashmir claimed responsibility for the explosion (Reuters photo)

Syria warns Turkey

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria on Tuesday blasted Turkey for boosting its military ties with Israel and said such a step would provoke the Turkish Muslim people and drag Ankara into conflicts.

Syrian information officials also accused Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz of adopting hostile policies against neighbouring Syria and said Damascus retained the right to respond with military action if necessary.

"The Turkish-Israeli military deal is a clear provocation," said Yilmaz. "The Turkish government towards Arabs, Mohammad Khair Al Wadi, director-general of the government daily Tishreen, said.

The deal "puts Turkey in confrontation with the whole Arab Nation and creates more problems for it with Arab states."

Mr. Wadi added in a front-page commentary: "The government of Yilmaz has escalated its hostile language against Syria and Arabs and increased the uncordial statements which escalate tension and push ties to more deterioration."

Mr. Wadi's remarks came a day after the head of Turkey's navy began a visit to Israel to further boost military ties after both states signed a military cooperation deal in February.

Turkish President Suleyman Demirel escaped an assassination attempt on Saturday by a lone gunman who said he was protesting the military agreement, whose articles were kept secret. The would-be assassin was overpowered by Mr. Demirel's bodyguards.

First word of Turkey's February military deal with Israel, which leaked to Turkish newspapers last month, touched off sharp criticism from Muslim states, charging Ankara with a betrayal of solidarity against the Jewish state.

"The Turkish authorities have brought the Zionist monster, whose teeth and nails are stained with the blood of the innocent people in Lebanon and Palestine into the Turkish society," Mr. Wadi said.

"Such a step constitutes a clear provocation of the feelings of the Islamic people of Turkey ... it drags Turkey into conflicts that it has nothing to do with," he added.

Turkey's state-run Anatolian news agency said Admiral Guven Erkay arrived in Israel on Monday to visit a naval base at Haifa and ammunition production centre as guest of his Israeli counterpart, Major-General Alex Tal.

The media said Turkey and Israel would hold joint naval exercises but there was no official confirmation of the report.

Another official daily, Al Baath, said Damascus would not allow its territory to be used to attack Turkey but at the same time would not remain idle towards any alliance that endangers its security.

"Syria, which repeatedly affirmed its rejection of the launching of any aggressive action against Turkey from its lands, reiterates commitment to its legitimate right to confront any military alliance that threatens its security," it said.

Higher Court dismisses challenge to mobile phone license agreement

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Higher Court of Justice on Tuesday dismissed a case filed by the National Company for Telecommunications challenging a government decision last year to grant a licence for mobile telephones to a local firm associated with an American company listed in the Arab boycott of Israel.

The case was seen as setting a precedent in terms of Jordan and the decades-old Arab boycott of Israel following the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in October 1994.

Following the signing of the treaty, Jordan amended all its internal laws and regulations that had blocked economic and commercial relations with Israel, but a boycott of Israel law has not been formally repealed.

However, the amendments to other legislation have effectively replaced the boycott of Israel law.

The case involving the mobile phone services,

however, was based on an argument that on the day the decision was taken to license the Jordan Mobile Phone Services Company, the boycott of Israel law was effective, and as such, the decision was null and void.

Ruling against the National Company for Telecommunications, the Higher Court of Justice found that "all decisions and measures taken in the course of awarding this tender (for cellular phone services in Jordan) and issuing the licence were sound and correct and in harmony with the Jordanian laws and regulations concerning tenders," a legal source said.

According to businessmen familiar with the case, the basis for the lawsuit was that the government awarded the contract to the Jordan Mobile Telephone Services Company (Fastlink), which is associated with the American giant Motorola, despite what the plaintiffs saw as a clear failure of the company to provide a key certificate along with its tender.

That certificate, supposed to have been issued by the Jordanian government, would have affirmed that the company was not affiliated with any firm which was in the Arab boycott list.

The failure to provide the certificate, according to the plaintiffs, was a major breach of the conditions attached to the tender.

Motorola's name was in the blacklist "on the day when the tenders were opened and therefore it was a failure, according to the plaintiffs, on the part of the company to meet the full conditions," said a businessman.

The licence was issued to the Jordan Mobile Services Company, whose offer topped all others at a minimum of JD 38 million in revenues to the government in five years, several million dinars higher than all other offers.

Under the agreement, the company paid JD 10 million upon signature of a bank contract, and provided a bank

(Continued on page 7)

Opposition criticises foreign policy

By Mervat Suwadeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A coalition of nine opposition parties on Tuesday strongly criticised the government's foreign policy, which, they contended, was a reflection of U.S. policies aiming at pressuring Iraq and Syria and promoting Israel's role in the region.

The opposition parties also accused the government of adding to the "suffering" of the Jordanians to "distract them from questioning its policies."

"The government's policies are an extreme response to U.S. policies and priorities in the region," said the coalition spokesman, Tayseer Himsi. "These policies are doomed to fail especially when the government takes part in alliances that aim at pressuring neighbouring Arab countries, namely Syria and Iraq," Mr. Himsi told a press conference.

The opposition parties also urged the Palestinian people to reject any form of federation or confederation with Jordan during the final status negotiations slated to resume after the May 29 Israeli general elections.

"It is well known that the future political links between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority were discussed during the Cairo summit despite the government's constant denial of confederation or federation plans with the Palestinian National Authority," said Deputy Mohammad Owaida of the Islamic Action Front.

Dr. Owaida, whose party has become increasingly critical of the government following four months of a tacit truce between them, said any federation or confederation between the Kingdom and the Palestinians would harm the Palestinian case and will help Israel "shirk its responsibilities towards the Palestinian people."

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Kuwait sees benefits in Iraq oil deal

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait will cheer an oil-for-food pact between former occupier Iraq and the United Nations because it could hasten payment of Gulf war compensation and reduce pressure for lifting sanctions, officials and diplomats said on Tuesday.

But the emirate, occupied by Iraq in 1990-91, will stick to its position that it will not lower its oil production to make way for revived Iraqi oil exports, they said.

"Kuwait's position is already known. It is not ready to cut production," one oil industry source said by telephone.

"We were among the first to ask Iraq to accept the agreement because it was the

only way to improve the conditions of the Iraqi people," a senior official who declined to be identified said.

The accord allows Iraq, which has the world's second largest oil reserves, to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months to buy food and medicine for its people, suffering under more than five years of strict economic sanctions.

The sale, subject to renewal, is an exemption to sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990. The plan deducts 30 per cent of revenue for a Gulf war reparations fund and smaller sums to meet U.N. costs for disarmament in Iraq.

"It's great news," Kuwaiti

compensation official Adel Assem said by telephone.

Mr. Assem, general manager of the Public Authority for Compensation for Damages Resulting from Iraq aggression, said his preliminary estimate was oil sale revenue might be available for use in compensation payments in about four months' time.

Over the past five years Kuwait has filed claims of about \$100 billion for damage resulting from Iraq's seven-month occupation. So far 80,000 Kuwaiti claims worth a total of about \$460 million have been approved by a U.N. compensation committee.

The signing of the accord will also help Kuwait by

removing some of the humanitarian basis for Iraq's campaign for the lifting or easing of the U.N. Security Council sanctions.

Iraq's diplomatic offensive has at times cast Kuwait in the role of a vengeful and hard-hearted former foe seeking maximum punishment for the occupation.

Kuwait has responded by emphasising that the issue of sanctions is one between Iraq and the Security Council. It has expressed grave concern over humanitarian suffering in Iraq and sends regular aid shipments to tens of thousands of Iraqi Gulf war refugees sheltering in neighbouring Iran.

International team says Security Council is violating U.N. Charter

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A report by an international study team documenting the impact of sanctions on Iraqi civilians with a particular focus on child health has charged the U.N. Security Council with procedural and substantive violations of the U.N. Charter and international law.

According to the report, the Security Council has violated its procedural duties by failing to "acknowledge its own legal responsibility to protect the rights of Iraqi civilians suffering under sanctions," and monitor the impact of sanctions on human rights.

Furthermore, the report asserted that the Security Council violated the substance of international and human rights law by denying Iraqi children the right to life, "considered by the U.N. Human Rights Committee the supreme right from which no derogation is permitted even in time of public emergency," and by violating the well-established legal norms of the

Geneva Convention which prohibits "any attack which may be expected to cause incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, damage to civilians' objects ... which would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated."

The report, which was realised in New York on Sunday, in London on Monday and here on Tuesday, was prepared by the New York based Centre for Economic and Social Rights (CESR) after a one-month mission of 24 researchers and lawyers from eight different countries.

Presenting the report, Sa'ad Hamid, Middle East project coordinator at the CESR, said that Security Council Resolution 661 adopted in August 1990 following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, represented "the most comprehensive sanctions system in history," placing a total ban on all Iraqi imports and exports.

"We produced a legal report to challenge the legality of the sanctions," Mr. Hamid told a press conference.

Confirming the results of several studies conducted after the Gulf war, asserting a dramatic increase in the infant mortality rate and estimating that over half a million children have died as a result of sanctions, the CESR report identified "two synergistic factors" of infant mortality: "Poor nutrition and increased prevalence of disease, compounded by inadequate health services."

Prior to sanctions, potable water networks served 93 and 70 per cent respectively of the urban and rural population, the report said, today "water plants throughout Iraq are now operating at extremely limited capacity, and the sewage system has virtually ceased to function."

"The argument of the Security Council, according to which the Iraqi regime bears the responsibility because it has the means to alleviate the people's suffering but does not act accordingly, is inadmissible," Mr. Hamid said.

Referring to allegations made in the past by U.S. Representative at the Secur-

ity Council Madeleine Albright according to which the Iraqi government had access to \$1 billion but used that money to build palaces and mansions, Mr. Hamid said his team travelled all over Iraq "without seeing or hearing about such mansions."

"First of all, it is inadmissible to hold this kind of an argument because the Security Council is responsible for the humanitarian rights of the Iraqi people, regardless their government's strategies and policies," Mr. Hamid said.

Opposing Ms. Albright's allegations against the Iraqi regime, Mr. Hamid said that, on the contrary, the team found out that "the (Iraqi) government is prioritising the humanitarian need for its people, especially maintaining a beneficial rationing system."

According to the CESR report, the food rationing system instituted by the Iraqi government in September 1990, one month after the Security Council imposed the

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COLUMN

Baby born in flight

CHICAGO (R) — When continental flight 1435 touched down in Cleveland it had picked up a passenger — a baby girl born in the restroom. Nguyet Pham and her new daughter "are both in excellent shape," a spokeswoman for Continental Airlines said. The airline said Pham, her husband and another child were flying to Cleveland from Chicago when she went into labour, went to the restroom and delivered the child with help from flight attendants and a doctor who was a passenger. The baby was born two minutes before the flight landed in Cleveland.

Welsh village poised for European adventure

CARDIFF (R) — A tiny Welsh village with two pubs and a population of 954 has been celebrating after their local amateur team qualified to join European soccer's top clubs in next season's Cup Winners Cup competition. Llansantffraid-Ym-Mechain, a rural community with no previous claims to fame, will join the likes of Paris St. Germain and Liverpool after winning a penalty shoot-out against professional opponents Barry Town in the Welsh Cup Final. At the nearby cattle market, the entire population are waiting to discover who their local heroes will be drawn against.

Hong Kong yachtsmen vote to keep 'Royal' tag

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong yachtsmen voted Monday to keep the name of their club "Royal," a move some fear puts them on a collision course with China's Communist authorities after Britain hands the colony over in 1997. For a second time in under a year, members of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (RHKYC), one of Hong Kong's few remaining bastions of British colonial customs and privilege, agonised then opted to hang on to their "Royal" tag, if only by default.

Volcano may have hastened Napoleon's Waterloo

LONDON (R) — Napoleon's defeat at the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815 may have been aided by the eruption of a volcano in the East Indies, a British magazine said. The Geographical Magazine said unusually heavy rains which made the ground between Paris and Brussels almost impassable hampered Napoleon's attempt to launch an attack on Brussels. Geologist Kenneth Spink was quoted as saying many geologists believe the heavy rains were caused by the eruption in April 1815 of Tambora, a volcano on an island in Indonesia.

Scots couple set up Loch Ness Monster Fan Club

INVERNESS, Scotland (R) — A Scottish couple set up a Loch Ness Monster Fan Club after reporting that they caught sight of the legendary creature. "We feel there should be a fan club dedicated to Nessie. I worked at a hotel on the shores of Loch Ness and tourists were always asking if there was a club they could join," said its founder, Kathy Campbell. She and her husband Gary decided to act after spotting something lurking in the loch earlier this year. "I saw something very large break the surface and then it just disappeared. I am convinced it was Nessie," Gary said.